

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Man appeal
The hard-sell campaign to promote male interest magazines
In the picture
Profile of the prize painter Malcolm Morley
In and out of step



John Percival on Nureyev's mixed reception as ballet director at the Paris Opéra
Cold turkey
Full report of England's World Cup qualifier in Istanbul

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition prize was shared by two winners yesterday. Mrs Audrey Richardson of Cherry Hinton, Cambridge, and Mr Gerard Brooks of Abingdon, Berks, each received £1,000. Portfolio list, page 16. How to play, information service, back page.

January sale for EEC butter

More than 156 million packets of UK-produced butter are to go on sale at a maximum price of 42p for 259 gram pack from January 14. Mr Michael Jopling, the Minister of Agriculture, said the sale had been delayed because retailers had complained that a Christmas sale would be "highly disruptive".

Newspaper bingo 'legal'

Newspaper bingo games are not illegal, Lord Cameron, the Scottish Lord Advocate, and Mr Peter Fraser, Scotland's solicitor-general, told Labour MPs campaigning for the games to be curbed. Mr George Foulkes, MP for Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley, said later the law officers believed such games were legal in England as well because participation was free.

Bomb victim

Mrs Muriel Maclean, who was injured in the IRA bombing at the Grand Hotel, Brighton, died in the Royal Sussex Hospital last night, bringing to five the bomb's death toll.

Sunday trading

The Home Office is expected to publish the official report into Sunday trading next week, and legislation is thought likely in the next session of Parliament. Page 3

Arts prize

A painting competition with a £25,000 prize has been launched by the Athena poster company. It will be Britain's most lucrative arts prize. Page 2

Sharon sues

A \$50m libel suit brought against Time magazine by Mr Ariel Sharon, the former Israeli Defence Minister, opened in New York. Page 5

Tavaré unhappy

Chris Tavaré, the former England batsman, has asked to be released from his contract with Kent after being replaced as captain by Chris Cowdrey. Page 27

Leader page, 13
Letters: On women priests, from Lord Coggan, and others; council cuts, from Mr R. Parker Jervis
Leading articles: Miners' chemical warfare; water authorities
Features, pages 10-12
In defence of rate-capping, by Kenneth Baker; Ethiopia's unhappy Jews, Digby Anderson on the left's diminishing reservoir of rhetoric, Wednesday Page: Latin lib - in theory
Obituary, page 14
Mr Chester Himes, Professor Stanley Beaver
Finland: A six-page Special Report on the occasion of President Koivisto's visit to Britain

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TUC chief attacks violence of 'brick and bolt'

● Violence on the miners' picket lines, "from whatever quarter", the strikers of the police, was condemned last night by Mr Norman Willis, TUC general secretary.
● More than 5,000 strikers have returned to work in the past 10 days and yesterday's 920 new faces was double the previous record for a Tuesday (page 2).

● The Roman Catholic bishops of England and Wales have deplored the instability and violence caused by the dispute and urged a return to negotiations (page 2)
● Two miners who have been on strike for eight months spoke of their reasons for returning to work (Back page)

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The violence of "the brick, the bolt, and the petrol bomb" on striking miners' picket lines was condemned last night by Mr Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC.
Speaking at a National Union of Mineworkers' strike rally in Aberavon, West Glamorgan, he appealed to other groups of workers to back the pitmen so that the dispute could be resolved "quickly and satisfactorily", and added: "There is no other way, and certainly violence is not the way."

He delivered his criticism at the end of a second day of violence in the Yorkshire coalfield, which resulted in injuries to more than 40 police officers involved in running street battles with pickets at Frickley colliery, South Elmsall.
Four barricades were built across the main access road to the pit, confirming police fears of a militant new tactics to blockade mines where men try to break the strike.

But despite increasing tension in the coalfield, 211 Yorkshire miners defied the pickets and went back to work yesterday, and across the country 92 "new faces" reported back to the pits, bringing the total number of workers returning since November 5 to 5,111.

Mr Willis told the striking miners: "The TUC has condemned all violence, from whatever quarter it comes. We condemn police violence. There have been scenes of unprovoked police aggression which are utterly alien to the British tradition of policing by consent. "And it is hypocritical in the extreme for ministers to ignore the evidence of police wrongdoing while extracting maximum propaganda value out of their

version of the ugly picket line clashes.
"I could leave it there, but I will not; for I have to say that any miner too, who resorts to violence, wounds the miners' case far more than they damage their opponents' resolve.
"Violence creates more violence and out of that is built not solidarity but despair and defeat. I have marched proudly before many miners' banners, and I know there will never be one that praises the brick, the bolt, or the petrol bomb.
"Such acts, if they are done by miners, are alien to our common trade union tradition,

however, not just because they are counter-productive but because they are wrong. But what is right and what is true is that only an agreement, reached between your union and the National Coal Board can resolve this dispute."

Accusing government ministers and the coal board of "foolishly and irresponsibly pinning all their hopes on driving enough desperate men back to work", Mr Willis said: "We need a surge back to negotiations, not a drift back to work."

In an interview with *The Times*, however, Mr Michael Eaton, chief spokesman for the board, said: "The ball is now in the NUM's court. Asked if the coal board expected any further negotiations, he answered: "Of our own volition, none."

In a strongly worded reaffirmation of the board's bargaining position that negotiations have ended, Mr Eaton added: "If there is going to be any further discussions it has to start with the NUM coming to us and saying: 'We are going to change our position to that we held on March 6'."

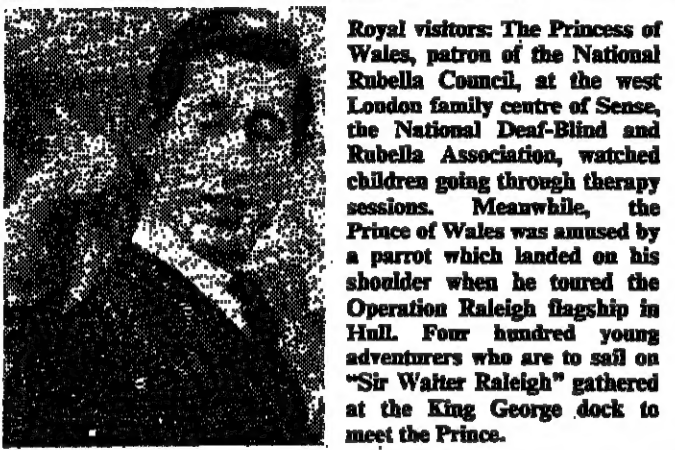
"There is one thing we can never agree to: we cannot afford to mine coal to the total exhaustion of every colliery."
Mr Eaton, chairman of the board's North Yorkshire area, also confirmed that the board would not go beyond the revamped colliery review procedure already accepted by the pit deputies' union, Nacods.

"We have said we will give 'due weight' to third-party contemplation of what we are running up against. There is nothing fairer than that. I cannot think of anything that could stand instead of that."

"There is no other form of words that could be engineered, because we cannot give up our right to manage the industry."

His comments clearly indicate that the TUC's hopes of a "meaningful and intelligent response from the coal board" are vain, and that Mr Willis's fears of a strike lasting many more weeks will be realized.
Senior board managers expect privately at least 5,000 miners to have returned to work by next Monday, the deadline for qualifying for Christmas bonuses. But that will leave well over 110,000 pitmen on strike.

Mr Eaton is already working on a relaunch of the "back to work" campaign, aimed at holding the impetus that has built up over the past 10 days since the collapse of the latest negotiations between the NUM, and the board.



Royal visitors: The Princess of Wales, patron of the National Rubella Council, at the west London family centre of Sense, the National Deaf-Blind and Rubella Association, watched children going through therapy sessions. Meanwhile, the Prince of Wales was amused by a parrot which landed on his shoulder when he toured the Operation Raleigh flagship in Hull. Four hundred young adventurers who are to sail on "Sir Walter Raleigh" gathered at the King George dock to meet the Prince.

Hope of £1 reprieve dashed by Thatcher

By Robin Young

While small shopkeepers, back-bench MPs, consumer spokesmen and old people's organizations competed yesterday to express their outrage at the abolition of the £1 note, the Prime Minister in the Commons effectively dashed all hopes of any further stay of execution.

There were cheers from both sides of the House of Commons when Mr Norman St John-Stevas told the Prime Minister: "If you save us from the imposition of the most unpopular coin in our history, you will have the support of the entire country."

But Mrs Thatcher, who last December surprised Treasury officials by supporting the continuation of the £1 note, said: "I do not think I can offer you very much hope."

The £3m to be saved by not issuing any further £1 notes

could be better used elsewhere, she said. By the end of next year, when it is due to be withdrawn, the £1 note would have lasted "two years longer than would otherwise have been the case."

The Chancellor of the Exchequer's announcement on Monday that the paper pound must go was the culmination of a long campaign from within the Treasury to be rid of a note which since 1976 has had lower real value than the 10 shilling note when it was abolished in 1970.

A clinching argument appears to have been that public acceptance of the £1 coin would be artificially delayed if the more familiar £1 note was retained.
To the disappointment of cost-conscious officialdom the public continued obstinately to prefer torn, tatty notes.

Koivisto to lunch with Queen
President Koivisto of Finland and his wife arrived in Britain yesterday for a four-day official visit (Henry Stanhope writes).

Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary who joined in an hour of talks at Number 10 last night, were hoping for an assessment of East-West relations from the Finnish head of state, whose meetings with President Reagan and President Chernomko over the past year have reflected his country's position of careful neutrality.

Today, he will lunch with the Queen at Buckingham Palace and visit *The Times*.
Geoffrey Smith, photograph, page 7

Bettaney's spy case appeal fails
Michael Bettaney, the MI5 counter-intelligence officer serving 23 years' imprisonment for offering to spy for the KGB, yesterday lost his appeal against conviction on ten charges under the Official Secrets Act.

Details of his interview with a senior Special Branch officer were disclosed for the first time in the Court of Appeal. Bettaney told police he wanted to spy for ideological reasons and tried to warn the Soviets of an MI5 operation against them.

The appeal was based on an alleged misdirection by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, at the Central Criminal Court. Counsel for Bettaney also tried to challenge the use of jury vetting.
Report, page 3

Pym in clash over job policy

By Anthony Bevins
Political Correspondent

Mr Francis Pym, the former Foreign Secretary, said last night that unemployment would continue to rise under the Government's present policies.

He said in the final day of the Commons debate on the Queen's Speech that Ministers had expressed deep concern about the levels of unemployment. "But the Government action and its response is not commensurate with that concern," he said.

In a dramatic intervention, Mr John Biffen, Leader of the Commons, challenged his former Cabinet colleague to say whether he would spend any Treasury surplus on tax cuts or employment projects. Mr Pym replied sharply: "It would be right to use it for the benefit of the unemployed."

Mr Pym said: "I do not think the Government has yet measured up to the scale of the changes that are taking place."
Ministers had stuck "with notable rigidity" to economic policies prepared for the 1970s - policies which had not worked - and Mr Pym said: "I believe from the outset, right from the autumn of 1979, the Government has misjudged unemployment consistently."

"I think it will go on rising under present policies. I cannot find any businessman who does not think it will go on rising in present circumstances."

Opening the debate, Mr Roy Hattersley, the shadow Chancellor, said that the conscience of the country was being stirred by high, prolonged and intentional unemployment, and the time would come when the Prime Minister would be forced to change her tone. She would then be too late and she would not be forgiven.

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, said that it was the Government's policy to create an enterprise economy which would produce prosperity and employment. "The strategy is on course and the policy will succeed," he said.

But Mr James Callaghan, the former Prime Minister, put the view later echoed by Mr Pym. He said that unemployment was a cancer and he feared it would continue to rise.
Parliament, page 4

India poll date set for next month

From Michael Hamlyn
Delhi

Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the new Prime Minister of India, will face the electorate before the end of the year and capitalize on the glow of support felt for him and his party after his mother's assassination.

It was announced yesterday that the general election will be on December 24. A second day of polling for those states unable to provide facilities for all their voters at once will be December 27. Counting will begin on December 28.

The announcement was made by the chief election commissioner, Mr Rama Krishna Trivedi, in his headquarters not far from the Parliament building where the new Lok Sabha will meet on or after January 20, the expiry of the term of the present house. Mr Trivedi said elections would be postponed in Punjab and Assam.

"Until September, we had been feeling that it may be possible to have polls in Punjab also," he said, "but recent unfortunate happenings have somehow changed the situation."

Of the 542 parliamentary constituencies, there will be no polling in 27 (14 from Assam, and 13 from Punjab). The absence of the 27 MPs is likely to hurt the Congress (I) party more than its rivals since it could expect to win more seats in both states.

The starting gun for the election will be fired officially next Tuesday, when notification will be given, but campaigning will begin immediately. "Electioneering began the day Mrs Gandhi died," Mr Bhim Singh, leader of the Jammu and Kashmir Panthers party, said. It is true that many of the events since, in particular flying urns of Mrs Gandhi's ashes round the country could have been designed to enhance the sympathy vote for Congress.

Simultaneous state elections will be held in Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and the Union territory of Goa, Daman and Diu. Elections will also be held in the capital of Punjab, Chandigarh, which, because it is shared with neighbouring Haryana, is not part of either, but a Union territory itself.
Wave of sympathy, page 7

Governor calls in Owen

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

The controversy over John-son Matthey's Bankers' grew yesterday when it emerged that Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, had written to Dr David Owen, SDP leader, offering him a private, off-the-record discussion.

The offer was made in a confidential letter sent last week and appears to be an attempt by

the Bank of England to defuse the political row over JMB.
The Bank had to rescue JMB last month after likely losses, now put at between £170m to £250m, came to light on its loans to commercial customers.

Dr Owen has criticized many aspects surrounding JMB's near collapse and the subsequent rescue.
Kenneth Fleet, page 17

NO NEED TO LET US INFLUENCE YOU

Did you see the six-page special report on Swindon in last Friday's Financial Times?

If not, we'll be happy to send you a copy.

And if you like, we'll also enclose our Fact File and offer you the same help and advice which convinced, amongst others, Plessey, Logica, Blick International, THORN EMI, National Semiconductors, and Intel.

However, you might prefer to judge Swindon for yourself. Contact Douglas Smith, Industrial Adviser, Civic Offices, Swindon. Or ring Freephone Swindon Enterprise.

JOIN THE

SWINDON

ENTERPRISE

Austin Rover drops appeal over strike

By David Felton and Clifford Webb

Austin Rover decided last night not to press its appeal against a judge's refusal to grant an injunction ordering the engineering union to hold a ballot on the 10-day-old strike at the company's plants and instead settled for an agreed statement reached during a two hour private High Court sitting.

Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, had indicated to the company's lawyers, before the private session, that he did not want "you to dig a grave for yourself" by ordering the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers to instruct their 7,000 members at Austin Rovers to return to work.

The appeal hearing did not resolve the main issue, because of the company's decision not to proceed, and union leaders were last night predicting that more will now follow the AUEW example of repudiating the strike in order to avoid having their funds put at risk under the 1984 Trade Union Act.

Company lawyers had argued that the union ought to instruct its members to call off the strike. The judges' decision, given by Sir John, said: "It seems to us in the circumstances as they now exist, there is no need for injunction. The union opposes the strike."

The appeal was made against the refusal of Mr Justice Stannard to grant an injunction to the company ordering the AUEW to call off the strike pending a ballot of its members at Austin Rover. The action against the electricians' union was left on the table because the union had instructed its members to return to work.

Electricians to accept ballot cash

By David Felton
Labour Correspondent

The right-wing leadership of the electricians' union yesterday became the first to break ranks with the TUC's opposition to accepting government money for postal ballots and opened the way for acrimonious argument over unions cooperating with labour legislation.

Defiance of the TUC policy, agreed at an executive meeting of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union, prompted an attempt at a later meeting of the country's second largest union to follow suit, but moderates were unable to win the necessary majority.

The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' executive voted by 56 to 20 to put the question of taking government funds for balloting to a ballot of its one million members but on issues requiring a change of policy at least six votes are required. The one executive member missing from yesterday's meeting could be expected to oppose taking state funds.

A decision by the electricians' union to accept government money had been expected, although it was unclear last night whether there would be attempts to discipline the union.

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, welcomed the union's decision. "I have no doubt that other unions will see the wisdom of ensuring that they have full democratic methods of elections in place before the electoral provisions of the Trade Union Act come into force next year."



Sir John Donaldson: No need for injunction.

lines at its Longbridge and Cowley assembly plants to handle calls which it said, were flooding in from workers who want to return.

Last night Austin Rover said: "There is mounting evidence to suggest that the strike is crumbling. Yesterday another 1,000 workers voted to return making nearly 10,000 in all.

Wit and wisdom for Supermac's second debut

By Julian Haviland
Political Editor

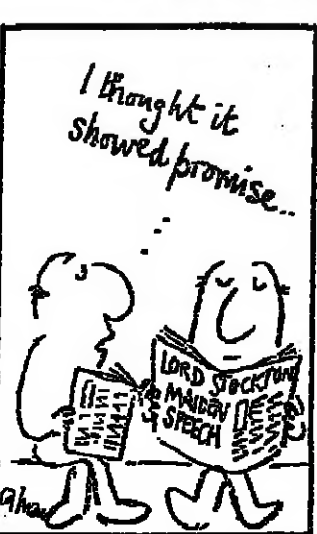
So the reports and anecdotes from Balliol and the Carlton Club, and from privileged visitors to Birch Grove, were all true. The sorcerer, as Lord Gower called him yesterday, had lost none of his art or wit, and none of his political astuteness.

Aged ninety and a bit, Harold Macmillan, First Earl of Stockton, yesterday spoke in the House of Lords for half an hour without notes or repetition, with perfect clarity of thought and, except when occasionally he turned from the microphone to embrace his audience, of voice.

Lord Stockton's address on the state of the nation - the Bishop of Lincoln called it a sermon - his maiden speech in a strange chamber to a reverential but unfamiliar congregation, was a tour de force.

They kept him waiting for an hour and a half in his corner seat below the gangway, a scholar fallen among accountants, it seemed.

The House filled. Lord Wilson of Rievaulx, who as Harold Wilson was his Commons sparring partner in the fifties and sixties, took the place opposite. Lord Bernstein represented show business, the other field in which Lord Stockton was, and remains, the acknowledged master.



I thought it showed promise.

Ministers under all-party pressure over Falklands

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Government yesterday came under renewed all-party pressure to reconsider its refusal to engage in negotiations with Argentina about the future of the Falkland Islands.

As Mrs Shirley Williams, president of the Social Democratic Party, and Mr George Robertson, Labour foreign affairs spokesman, returned from a weekend visit to Argentina to call for talks over a long-term settlement, Mr Cyril Townsend, Conservative MP for Beale, urged the Government to move away from the "sterile and costly" fortress Falklands policy.

Mr Townsend, chairman of the South Atlantic Council, set up to promote better relations between Britain and Argentina, called for the restoration of diplomatic links and the resumption of talks on the Falklands.

Mr Townsend's remarks came after the publication of the first Gallup poll on voters' attitudes to the Falklands. A total of 74 per cent of those questioned wished to restore diplomatic relations with Argentina, and only 37 per cent believed that the islands could remain permanently British.

The long-stated view of the Government, most firmly voiced by the Prime Minister, that no aspects of the islands' sovereignty can be discussed with Argentina, is expected to receive a further rebuff next month in a report by the Tory-dominated Commons Select Committee on Foreign Affairs.

It is expected to argue that discussions on sovereignty cannot be ruled out for ever and that the failure of the Alfonsín Government to make any progress on the issue could pose threats of a military takeover.

Mrs Williams and Mr Robertson met Argentine businessmen, academics, and politicians on their visit. They are to see Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, to emphasize the importance of starting negotiations.

Mr Robertson said yesterday: "We found a flexible attitude in Argentina and a genuine desire for better relations."

The democratic Government was well based, but there was a lot of nationalist feeling on the Falklands issue.

Mr Townsend, whose views are shared by many Tory MPs, said the Gallup poll confirmed other indications that there was a growing desire to reduce spending on fortress Falklands and to restore normal relations.

In the recent United Nations debate, Argentina obtained a large majority for a motion pressing Britain to negotiate and until the vote was taken it remained uncertain whether the EEC partners would stand by Britain.

Athena launches £25,000 arts prize

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

A new painting competition with a first prize of £25,000 was announced yesterday.

The Athena Award, sponsored by the Athena poster and print company, will be Britain's most lucrative prize, beating its literary equivalents by several thousand pounds. The Booker Prize, the first to popularize artistic competitions, is worth £5,000. The Betty Trask Prize, for works of romantic literature, offers £17,500 to its winner.

Athena's closest equivalent in the visual arts world is the Turner Prize, which was awarded for the first time last week. But its £10,000 prize is available only to those established artists who are deemed to be worthy of nomination.

Lord Annan, the chairman of the board of trustees of the National Gallery, will head the award's administrative committee.

Athena are also awarding three supplementary prizes of £2,000, offering successful artists the chance to have work published by the company, and launching a new London art exhibition at the Mall Galleries where between 300 and 400 of the best works entered will be shown.

The prize is open to anyone aged between 21 and 50. There will be a £15 entrance fee. Entries must be original works in oil, water colour, gouache, air brush, pencil, or pen and ink, or any other two-dimensional medium, and must have been completed within the two years prior to the closing date, May 31, 1985.

Those tactics were used again early yesterday when about 600 miners built four separate barricades on the main road leading to Frickley Colliery. Ten men stoned police seeking to clear the route so that four men could be bussed in for the first time since the strike began.

Scaffolding poles were taken from a building site to build one barrier and at another barrier garden seats taken from the local social centre park were used to bar the path of the working miners. A considerable police force was deployed, including mounted officers, but they had to use a back road to get through.

Elsewhere in South Yorkshire, a lamp-post was pulled down outside Thurncroft colliery and timber and stone barricades were put up. A



Tactics switch to blockading

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Striking Yorkshire miners, frustrated by the police's strategy in getting working miners to the pits, have switched tactics away from mass picketing to blockading the pits.

The escalation of violence first seen two days ago when lamp-posts were torn down and barricades were put up at colliery access routes was part of a pre-planned intensification of the conflict, according to reliable sources within the coalfield.

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Hume and bishops deplore strike strife

By Our Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Roman Catholic bishops of England and Wales, led by Cardinal Basil Hume, yesterday deplored the atmosphere of instability and violence arising from the miners' strike, which they said was gravely damaging to the morale of the community.

In their first utterance of the issue, they said in a statement: "We believe it is our right and duty to urge all involved in this tragic dispute to seek a swift return to the negotiating table. A fight to the finish can only bring disaster to all concerned."

The statement came in the course of their half-yearly meeting in London after they discussed in private the evidence of growing violence between police and pickets.

"In the mining areas themselves, the 'creeping return' to work seems to have increased the bitter divisions now experienced in traditionally close-knit communities. This adds urgency to the need for negotiations."

The bishops said the industrial relations should not be viewed as a trial of strength, but guided by fundamental moral principles. "No matter how deeply feelings may be aroused, in normal circumstances such

Drive for primary teachers

A campaign to recruit more and better primary school teachers to cope with a new baby boom was launched yesterday by the Department of Education and Science with the publication of bright new recruiting material and a video tape.

Two thousand more primary teachers would be needed by the late 1980s Mr Bob Dunn, a junior minister at the DES, said yesterday. "We want to ensure that there is a heavy level of competition for the available places so that teaching recruits only those who are well qualified and strongly motivated for the demanding task of teaching," he said.

Unpublished department figures show the number of children entering primary school at the age of five increasing by 7,000 between 1984 and 1987.

After 1987 the projections show the number dropping back again to 555,000 entrants in 1989 and to 554,000 in 1990. The number of children starting primary school then rises dramatically to 648,000 in the year 2000.

However, those children entering primary school in the year 2000 are not born yet so the reality may be different. But the DES expects an expansion in primary schools of 100,000 children in the 1990s.

The recruiting film, *A Class of Your Own*, and the brochure, *My Teacher*, are aimed at young people in schools who are making career choices, although Mr Dunn hoped the material would also appeal to graduates and to mature potential entrants.

Arrests reach 7,658

By a Staff Reporter

A total of 7,658 arrests were made in the miners' dispute between March 13 and November 8, the Home Office said yesterday. Of 8,194 charges, more than half relate to public order offences and obstructing the police. The figures are:

Public order act, 1936	4,364
Public order act, 1936	3,264
Others	1,030

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Money to be earned before Christmas by miners returning to work by next Monday				
	Power loader	U'ground worker	Surface craftsman	Surface worker
Weekly wage (5 wks)	£51.50	£52.00	£47.50	£47.00
Bathing and changing	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75
Holiday pay (12 1/2 days)	325.75	262.50	273.75	235.25
Statutory and colliery rest days	130.30	105.00	109.50	94.10
Service bonus (max)	70.00	70.00	70.00	70.00
Gross pay	1,189.30	974.25	1,012.50	881.60

Source: NCB figures based on maximum available for top grade workers in North-east coalfields.

Havers named over IRA suspect leak

The Attorney General, Sir Michael Havers, was named yesterday as the person who may have helped an IRA woman suspect bomber to escape arrest.

Sir Michael probably leaked the news that a warrant had been issued for her arrest, the Irish Opposition leader, Mr Charles Haughey, said.

He said in the Daily: "All the indications are that this story was handed to *The Sunday Times* by someone high up in British government circles, probably the Attorney General himself, for whatever motive."

The Irish Justice Minister, Mr Michael Noonan, was asked to give full details of last week's bungle when the suspected bomber Miss Evelyn Glenholmes, vanished after warrants from Scotland Yard arrived in Dublin.

Mr Haughey claimed the story was planted in *The Sunday Times* to affect the outcome of the forthcoming Anglo-Irish summit.

He said that the statement by *The Sunday Times* editor, Mr Andrew Neil, defending publication, indicated the story was cleared by the highest authority in the British Government.

Mr Haughey asked: "If so was it something to do with the summit? Was it to create a security atmosphere for the summit?"

Mr Noonan said he had no information about the leak other than that it appeared to have come from high-ranking London police sources. He recalled that Sir Michael had complimented the role of the Irish police in the matter.

Miss Glenholmes, aged 26, is understood to be still in the republic where police are watching airports and ferry terminals in case she attempts to leave.

Mr Andrew Neil, Editor of *The Sunday Times*, said in a statement last night: "Conspiracy theories may hold a special appeal for Mr Charles Haughey, but they do not explain how *The Sunday Times* came by its Evelyn Glenholmes story. *The Sunday Times* never discusses who is who or who is not a source on any story. But, in the Glenholmes story, the idea seems to have gained currency in Dublin that it was handed to us on a plate by British politicians anxious to cause mischief in Anglo-Irish relations. Unfortunately, it was not that easy. Our story was the result of painstaking investigations over several weeks and was pieced together from several sources on both sides of the Irish Sea, none of whom was aware that we were slowly gathering enough information to build the complete picture."

£1.7m food subsidy for MPs

By Our Political Correspondent

Commons catering for MPs, staff and journalists cost the taxpayer £1,775,000 last year, according to accounts published yesterday.

The House of Commons Refreshment Department reported last July that it had made a "gross profit" of £585,243, which was reduced to an "operating surplus" of £175,271 after expenditure on replacement silverware - at a cost of £54,000 - and kitchen equipment.

But the full extent of the Treasury subsidy for Commons catering was revealed only yesterday, with the publication of the cost of 234 staff employed in Westminster's kitchens, canteens, dining rooms and bars.

The Refreshment Department continues to receive other services free of charge, including accommodation, furniture, gas, electricity and water supplies.

NCB says 5,000 have returned to pits in 10 days

By David Cross

More than 5,000 former strikers have returned to their pits since the latest drift back to work began 10 days ago, the National Coal Board claimed yesterday.

Yesterday's total of 920 new faces was more than double the previous highest figure for a Tuesday, bringing the total so far this week to nearly 3,000. The total for last week was 2,200.

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former strikers went back, and seven men reported to work at Ashington colliery.

In the western area, where 131 former strikers returned, Silverdale colliery in north Staffordshire had too many miners on the day shift. An area spokesman said 400 men reported for duty.

In Scotland, the coal board reported that it was able to move coal from the Bliston Glen colliery without the

Labour backing sought for private cooperative

From Ronald Faux, Glasgow

The Labour group on Glasgow City Council will today be asked to support council tenants in Possil, the city's most socially deprived area, who have formed a private housing cooperative through which they hope to hold their homes with £1 shares.

The cooperative members claim that the only way to get their leaking, run-down property repaired is by becoming part of the private sector. The tenants propose that they should take over letting and repair of their houses from the council. They would collectively own them.

Mrs Catherine Parker, convenor, said that the scheme would allow repair work to the houses and restore a sense of community.

In Glasgow, community-based housing associations have already improved 10,000 of the city's worst houses but 15,000 remain to be improved. The record shows that after a scheme is completed anti-social behaviour and community spirit are improved.

Newt colonies reprieved

Two of Britain's largest known colonies of the declining great crested newt have won a reprieve, their landlord, the Blue Circle Cement Company in Gravesend, announced yesterday.

One of two chalk pits in north Kent, thought to contain 3,000 newts each, is to be fenced off for protection, and the other, which was to be filled in as part of a reclamation scheme, will be allowed to stand for two years while naturalists remove the newts to near by ponds.



Life and death: Leonard Rossiter as King John in *The Life and Death of King John* which is to be shown on BBC Television on November 24. A memorial service for the actor takes place at St Paul's, Covent Garden, tomorrow.

Allison is supported by Clough

Mr Brian Clough, the Nottingham Forest manager, told a Tescote industrial tribunal yesterday that Middlesbrough's second division football club, should have honoured Mr Malcolm Allison's contract. Mr Allison was "not a man known for telling lies," Mr Clough said.

Mr Clough appeared as a "witness of opinion" for Mr Allison, aged 57, who is claiming unfair dismissal.

The tribunal heard that the Middlesbrough board told Mr Allison last March that it was "accepting his resignation" because he had refused to carry out the club's wish to sell players to ease a £300,000 bank overdraft. Mr Allison asked: "Do you mean you are sacking me?"

Mr Mike McCullagh, the club chairman, told the hearing he replied: "Whichever way it is put, you are finished."

The hearing continues today.

Synod anger at being overruled in Commons

By Clifford Longley

There were some stern reactions in the General Synod of the Church of England yesterday to the rebuff it received last July from the House of Commons with talk of disestablishment, but the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, said that the Synod should not react too hastily.

This latest Church-state difficulty arose when Parliament rejected the Appointments of Bishops Measure, which the Synod had approved by an overwhelming majority. The measure, which was to do away with the procedure introduced by HENRY VIII for rubber-stamping nominees for an episcopal vacancy, was outvoted late at night in a Commons back-bench move led by Mr Enoch Powell, Ulster Unionist MP for Down South.

Dr Runcie said that the Synod had to take it seriously, but had also to recognize that Parliament was within its rights, and to heed the message. He called it a "warning about any attempts to slip through Church legislation by what might appear to be a tactical move."

Speakers in the Commons' debate had wanted to let off their frustration at recent changes in the life of the Church, particularly movements which seemed to them to be turning the Church into a sect rather than a national church. "But sometimes debates in Synod are used to let off frustration," he said.

Canon Colin Buchanan, principal of St John's College, Nottingham, said that he was not against any "benign establishment" of the Church, which was gently and deliberately leading to the transfer of powers over the Church from Parliament to the Synod.

The Bishop of Birmingham, the Rt Rev Hugh Montefiore, said the MPs appeared to question whether the Synod was truly representative.

Two die in triple shooting

Detectors were last night waiting interview Lesley Stanners who is critically ill in Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, after a triple shooting at Long Sutton, Norfolk.

Miss Stanners, aged 34, has gunshot wounds to the head.

Inspector Peter Barnes, of Norfolk police, said: "At the moment we do not know the cause, the motive, or the reason."

The two shot dead are: Alan Sanford, aged 38, of St Leger, and Margaret Stanners, aged 55, Miss Stanners's mother, of Main Road, High Wycombe.

Correction

A Special Report on the University of Newcastle Medical School (November 6) stated that the architects chose not to include a car park. The architects, Robert Mathew, Johnson-Marshall and Partners, say car parking facilities, mostly under cover, were provided in accordance with the university brief and the requirements of the local planning officer.

Surrealist's still life of biscuits sells for £300,000

By Hoon Mallalieu

Giorgio de Chirico, the Italian Surrealist, is definitely a painter about whose work there are two opinions, with virtually no common ground between. It is either self-indulgent rubbish or the perfection of beauty.

The second school of thought was obviously present in force at Christie's in New York on Monday when his "Interiore Metafisico" of 1917, a still life which included a group of cookies and a fishing boat, sold for a record \$385,000, or £301,252.

Surrealism was much in favour, with further records for

dealers and collectors of sale was smaller and more carefully selected.

A fine looking Kum Kapour Zare silk and metal thread prayer rug in warm gold and madder went to a collector from the United Arab Emirates at Sw £187,000 or £60,330, a record for the type.

Most of the 50 works sent by the owners of the Queen's Hotel, Penzance, where artists who founded the Newlyn School in the 1890s used to paint pictures that went up on the walls, were auctioned at Phillips in London yesterday for £246,224.

Social worker's plea against deportation

A deportation order was served yesterday on Mr Muhammad Idrish, the Bangladeshi social worker who was refused leave to appeal to the House of Lords last week. His campaign to stay in Britain has the support of 86 MPs.

Mr Idrish's union Nalga, announced last night that it will go ahead with a demonstration in Birmingham in January as a protest.

Mr Idrish is to appeal to the Home Office.

Bettan plan again

Campaign children

no guilty over paedophile magazine article

0,000 ple

David Pinder

Bettaney 'told KGB about planned operation against Soviet suspect'

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Michael Bettaney, the MI5 officer convicted of offering to spy for the Soviet Union, spiced his approach to the KGB by giving details of an impending operation by the security service against a Soviet suspect in Britain, the Court of Appeal was told yesterday.

Further details of the case against Bettaney were disclosed as he appealed against his conviction which resulted in a prison sentence last April of 23 years. He had faced 10 charges under the Official Secrets Act. After a hearing lasting more than three hours the court rejected his appeal.

The warning to the KGB was disclosed as Mr Michael Mansfield, for Bettaney, argued that the Lord Chief Justice in his summing up at the trial had not asked the jury to consider the nature of the information involved and whether it was prejudicial to the safety and interests of the state.

The Court of Appeal was also told, in the second strand of the appeal, which challenged the use of jury vetting, that a check on the potential jury for the

Bettaney trial at the Central Criminal Court disclosed five people with previous convictions.

Several hundred people, forming the panel for the case and others were checked by Special Branch and other officers. Mr Kenneth Richardson, for the Crown, said yesterday that two of the five were called to try Bettaney and asked to stand by.

Bettaney was not present for yesterday's hearing, which had been intended originally to examine leave to appeal. However, the court decided in the event to treat the proceedings as a full appeal hearing.

Yesterday, part of Bettaney's interview with the police after his arrest last year was disclosed in open court for the first time.

Lord Justice Lawton, presiding, read out portions of the interview with Det Sup Peter Westcott, Special Branch, in which Bettaney said he approached the KGB because of ideology.

He said: "I was offering to supply the KGB with classified information. In the first letter I

explained that for ideological reasons I had decided to offer my services as a source of classified information to the KGB.

"In order to establish my bona fides and access to such information, I communicated certain items of classified information."

Two letters were sent to "a person I believed to be a senior officer of the KGB". The first included documentation on the expulsion of three Russians and "details of one impending operation". The interview was never challenged.

Lord Justice Lawton said the Lord Chief Justice had been correct in his trial decision. There was no doubt that Bettaney had passed information nor that it might be useful to an enemy. "It was almost unarguable he was doing it for a purpose prejudicial."

The court also dismissed the appeal on the basis that the use of jury vetting was unconstitutional. The Crown and the defence were entitled to make inquiries about a potential juror, it decided.

Campaign to help children of disabled

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Children as young as four were having to spend hours a day caring for disabled relatives because home helps, home nursing and other services were not available when needed, the Association of Carers said yesterday.

Children were missing out at school and older children were unable to take jobs because community care services were inadequate, the association said as it launched a campaign for better services at a press conference in London.

Mr Jack Ashley, Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent South, said: "When we have young girls aged five and nine feeding and dressing and taking to the lavatory disabled parents, and we have a boy aged 11 changing his mother's sanitary towel during her periods, we have a stain on British society and a scandal."

Disabled parents, often single, were scared to speak out about what they were having to ask their children to do, for fear the children would be taken into care.

The association estimated that between 5,000 and 10,000 children aged under 18 were having to care for disabled relatives. "We have heard of children as young as four years old who are helping handicapped parents to dress, wash and use the toilet, as well as undertaking shopping and housework," a spokesman said.

"This is, we believe, the

unacceptable face of care in the community."

At the press conference, Derek, aged 11, described how he had to help with cooking, cleaning and making drinks because his mother, Mrs Maureen Shaw, aged 41, of East Malling, Kent, who suffers from multiple sclerosis, is confined to a wheelchair.

Mr Tony Evans, aged 18, said that from the age of 14 he had cared for his frail grandfather, aged 92, his father who has diabetes, tuberculosis in the spine and ulcers on his feet, and his mother, aged 56, who suffers from multiple sclerosis.

He said social services in Chippingham, Wiltshire, provided home help twice a week, but otherwise he had to cook, clean and care for his parents.

His schooling had been disrupted: he had only one O level. He had been on the Youth Training Scheme, getting up early to prepare meals to leave for his parents and working in the evening. But he was now unemployed.

The attitude of social services, he said, was: "If you are there, good luck to you". If he got a job or a place in college, his mother would probably have to go into a home.

The association, which is planning to meet Mr Anthony Newton, Minister of State for Social Services, next week, said the Government had to realize that caring for the disabled was not a nine to five Monday to Friday job.

Increase in second divorces

By a Staff Reporter

More people are getting divorced for the second time, although there are signs that the overall divorce rate, and the average length of a marriage which ends in divorce, have stabilized since reaching record figures in 1980.

There were 147,479 divorces made absolute last year, half a per cent more than the previous year.

Last year's figure is two-and-a-half the number in 1970, the year before the Divorce Reform Act, 1969, came into effect. Last year, 12 of every 1,000 married people divorced.

The overall stability, however, masks a rise in the number of people divorcing for at least the second time. Last year 31,308 couples who divorced had at least one partner who had gone through at least one previous divorce, compared with 25,411 in 1980.

Figures from the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys show that the median duration of marriages ending in divorce has remained unchanged since 1980 at just over 10 years.

Fewer marriages in the last decade and changes in the population's age structure have led to a 4 per cent increase in divorces among people aged over 35. Among people aged under 35, a total of 3 per cent fewer husbands and 2 per cent fewer wives were divorced last year.

Computer breakdown and error are blamed for Blyth rescue delay



Voyagers' homecoming: Eric Blunn (left) with his wife, Peggy, daughter Elaine, aged 12, and son, Anthony, aged four, and Chay Blyth (right) being welcomed by his daughter Samantha, aged 17, and his wife, Maureen, at Heathrow airport yesterday on their return from Santiago, Chile, after being rescued off Cape Horn (Photograph: Chris Harris).

By David Nicholson-Lord

Mr Chay Blyth and his crewman, Mr Eric Blunn, were reunited with their families at Heathrow airport yesterday after last week's disaster off Cape Horn which cost them their boat and nearly lost their lives. Both said they would never go around the Cape again.

Mr Blyth, aged 44, said: "We have had a good crack at the Cape"

Mr Blunn, aged 38, said he had "cracked up" when he saw a photograph of his family floating in the water among the wreckage.

It emerged yesterday that computer breakdown and human error were responsible for the nine-hour delay in alerting rescue services to the capsizing of Mr Blyth's trimaran Beefeater II in hurricane-force winds.

Further details came to light of how the Argos satellite-linked distress warning system, regarded since its introduction five years ago as an important contribution to international yachting safety, failed to respond to Beefeater's signal.

Mr Blyth and his sponsors, Beefeater Gin, have said they are "very unhappy" with the delay in response from the system's control centre in Toulouse. The errors will also worry sponsors and competitors in long-distance yacht races, where the use of an

Argos transponder is fast becoming obligatory.

The system operates via Argos weather satellites, making up to 10 "passes" a day, which pick up the signal from the transponder on the boat. The signal is in turn picked up by relay stations, fed to a "filtering" centre in Washington and then on to the Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales at Toulouse where it is "decoded".

Beefeater's signal came in overnight, and although it was

received at 0100 GMT, according to details supplied to The Times it was not processed until 0630 because of computer breakdown.

Instead of immediately telephoning the police in London, as laid down in emergency procedures, the French operator sent a telex to the London offices of Beefeater, apparently under the impression that it would be open at 7am French time. The Falmouth coastguard was not alerted until 9.30am.

Violence has become official policy for many in the traditionally pacifist animal rights movement, the Animal Liberation Front said yesterday (Tony Samstag writes). It added that the carrying of firearms would not be ruled out in certain circumstances.

Mr Ronnie Lee, official spokesman for the group, said from his base in Putney, south-west London: "There may be circumstances where you cannot save the animals unless you force or violence yourself"

Onslaught on US computer market

British manufacturers of microcomputers for businesses, schools, and universities are preparing to launch their products in the United States (our Science Editor writes).

Some of the new equipment and developments in computer

software were unveiled yesterday at Compec, the computer exhibition at Olympia, west London.

One was a demonstration of the Husky handheld computer, with the capacity of a desk top microcomputer, which the

Army and RAF use to check missiles.

Another produced by Brainstorm, Computer Systems using Acorn's Torch computer, designed for businessmen, has been tested for forecasting the weather and gold price rises.

Animal protest gun threat

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The gas people—investing in tomorrow's world today

The fact that gas is such good value makes it today's most popular fuel in British homes—and a powerful and growing force in industry, too.

But the system of underground pipelines needed to bring this clean, controllable fuel to homes, factories and offices all over Britain is largely taken for granted.

It represents a massive national investment. To replace the 150,000 miles of mains and service pipes into customers' homes, for example, would cost some £12 billion.

Naturally, the mains system needs maintenance—and the gas people, in the search for efficiency, have developed many ingenious ways of laying new mains and of minimising the cost and inconvenience of repairing and replacing existing pipes as the need arises.

This essential work provides thousands of jobs for British workers—and first-class opportunities for British firms.

£1,500 MILLION PROGRAMME FOR BRITAIN'S GAS MAINS

Over the last seven years, more than 20,000 miles of mains have been laid and renewed, at a total cost of over £1,500 million.

And the carefully phased

programme to keep Britain's gas distribution system in good order continues, alongside further extensions to the system.

The next five years or so will see further massive investment in maintenance and extension by British Gas on their customers' behalf.

As everybody knows, to repair a gas main, you usually have to dig a hole in the road.

The gas people dug half a million trenches last year and moved 40 million tons of earth. Now, new technology has been devised to enable pipes to be laid or replaced without trenching—using mechanical moles or techniques for inserting new mains inside old ones.

Where trenches are inevitable, making them narrower—again possible with new technology—also saves expensive earth-moving.

Reinstatement is cheaper and faster, inconvenience to the public is reduced.

FEWER HOLES IN THE ROAD

Pinpointing pipes and other services underground has always been difficult—causing inconvenience, lost time, and higher costs.

The gas people have developed a new instrument for this purpose. Called Gascopact, it makes use of advanced micro-electronics to provide much higher accuracy and greater "user friendliness" than anything known before.

We'll still be digging holes—but there will be fewer of them.

In fact, there will be fewer of them all over the world, because many overseas utilities

have expressed interest in the device, which will, of course, detect other sorts of pipes—and cables, too. There is also export potential in other specialist equipment invented by the gas people.

So yesterday's investment turns out to be tomorrow's export opportunity—bringing more work for British industry, more jobs for British workers.

HOW THE GAS PEOPLE'S NEW VANS SNIFF OUT TROUBLE

In parallel with our far-reaching mains renewal programme, we are using increasingly sophisticated technology for detecting early signs of possible trouble in the distribution system.

For example, special patrol vans carry ultra-sensitive detection equipment, capable of identifying minute quantities of gas escaping from damaged pipes—in concentrations far below the level at which they could be detected by smell. All this work is designed to make the nation's gas system even safer as well as more efficient for our rapidly increasing number of customers—more than 250,000 extra last year, and almost 3 million more over the past decade or so.

These plans for tomorrow are only possible because the profits British Gas creates today are all ploughed back into the business.

Britain's got a wonderful future!

Gas

Two guilty over paedophile magazine article

Two leading members of the Paedophile Information Exchange were found guilty at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of sending an indecent magazine article through the post.

David Joy, aged 42, and Peter Bremner, aged 44, were convicted after the jury had considered the verdicts for six hours. Joy was also convicted of publishing an obscene article in PIE's magazine, Contact.

Both were acquitted of inciting sexual intercourse and buggery with children under 16, and of inciting indecent assault.

Joy, a former teacher of Russell Street, Loughborough, Leicestershire, and Bremner, aged 44, a Doctor of Philosophy, of Upper Clapton Road, Clapton, east London, will be sentenced today. They were remanded in custody.

Sunday trading report backs change in law

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The Home Office intends to publish the results of an inquiry into Sunday trading next week, and MPs are confident that legislation based on the report will be introduced by the Government in the next session of Parliament.

The committee of inquiry, chaired by Mr Robin Auld, has urged ministers to sweep away the tangle of laws that restrict Sunday trading.

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, is expected to welcome the report when he publishes it next week. His response, however, will be tempered by the need for further consultation on specific points. However, Whitehall

sources were saying yesterday that a Bill could not even be guaranteed.

But it is understood that initial caution on the issue, both inside the Home Office and in other Tory Party quarters, has been broken by the radical Conservative advocates for change.

Mr Brittan is said to have previously feared for the traditional British Sunday. As recently as last May Mr John Gummer, the Tory party chairman, told the party's women's conference: "We must be careful of small things, like the pace of metrication or going overboard for Sunday opening."

Fowler rejects doctor's cot deaths claim

Claims by a Home Office pathologist that most cot deaths are due to parents unintentionally smothering their children were rejected yesterday by Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services.

There is no evidence to support the view that smothering is the cause of the majority of cot deaths," he said in a Commons reply. "I deplore any unsubstantiated allegations which might give rise to this impression."

His comments came after Dr Donald Wayne last week told the inquest on Adam Bithell, the fourth child his parents had lost in a cot death, that he believed the majority of such deaths were due to suffocation. His views were rejected by specialists.

Mr Fowler said that he was expecting later this month the final report of a three-year study into 988 child deaths. The study is believed to show that up to 300 cot deaths a year are preventable by better training of doctors and parents.

Children die

Levi Kemp, aged three, and his sister, Chantel, aged one, died in their bedroom as fire swept their home in Bushbury Lane, Wolverhampton, yesterday.



Child in need: David Pinder with his mother yesterday.

£90,000 plea for ill baby

Offenders at the Youth Custody Centre at Everthorpe, north Humber, have been helping the parents of a boy aged five months to raise £90,000 to take him to the United States for a liver transplant.

Doctors have told Mr and Mrs Alan Pinder, of Beck Road, Everthorpe, that only a transplant could save the life of their baby, David, who was born with no bile ducts in his liver.

The couple launched an appeal yesterday to raise the money.

Mrs Susan Pinder, aged 22, said David "could have a transplant in this country, but doctors have warned there is a shortage of donors and also administrative problems."

David's father, aged 29, said that his son had two operations at Leeds General Infirmary, which were unsuccessful. So far nearly £4,000 has been promised for the appeal.

Callaghan plan for ending coal strike

THE ECONOMY

It was clear that with the bulk of the year gone investment was likely to have risen by 7½ per cent, even higher than expected, Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said on the final day of debate on the Queen's Speech outlining the Government's legislative proposals.

In a debate on the economy Mr Lawson told MPs that in last year's autumn statement he had forecast that investment would rise by 4 per cent in the current year. The Opposition had then cast doubt on his forecast.

Tory MPs cheered when Mr Lawson said investment was likely to be up not by 4 per cent figure but by 7½ per cent.

Mr Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs, said that high unemployment was an integral part of the Government's economic strategy.

He moved an Opposition amendment regretting that the speech reaffirmed policies which had already done severe damage to the British economy and would hold back the prospects of economic recovery in the future.

The Chancellor had said yesterday that they should not worry too much about North Sea oil running out as it would certainly see out his lifetime. They may be true, but North Sea oil would not last out for the life of this year's school leavers, 150,000 of whom were still unemployed.

He suggested that Mr Lawson had meant that North Sea oil revenues would last the life of this Government, and that was his real concern, so that his policies would be cushioned by that unique benefit. But even with £11b of such revenues, the Government both anticipated and planned for a permanent reservoir of three million unemployed.

Mr Lawson used that pool as a sort of income pool to hold down the total wage bill and hoped to use it to subsidise the trade unions.

The Chancellor would improve his reputation if he honestly admitted that the Government did not anticipate any reduction in unemployment in the foreseeable future.

The best way to increase employment and reduce unemployment was by a spreading whatever funds were available in the public sector, particularly in capital programmes. He was not suggesting they could spend, spend indefinitely down to zero unemployment. But other countries had demonstrated that, by prudent investment in capital works, unemployment would certainly be reduced.

The Institute of Fiscal Studies and the London Business School both agreed that £1b spent on public works would create six times more jobs than £1b used to reduce taxation. No reputable economist could argue with that. But some disreputable politicians said they would rather give it away.

The Chancellor was determined to use any surplus to cut direct taxation. How could he claim that his prime objective, or even his serious intention, was to reduce unemployment?

He could understand the political reasons for being determined to make some cuts in taxation. The Government was twice elected on

the false prospectus that that would be done quickly.

Annual taxation was now £22.5b higher than in 1979. So if the Chancellor achieved his objective of cutting taxes by £1.5b he would only have to reduce the overall burden by another £21b to get back to the level he inherited from the last Labour Government.

For the time being the Prime Minister would continue to posture as a conviction politician with the price of her convictions being paid by the poor and the unemployed.

But the consequence of this country (he continued) in beginning to stir at the thought of high employment, prolonged unemployment, intentional unemployment. Some Tory backbenchers have caught the mood already. Eventually the Prime Minister, for electoral purposes, will catch the same mood. Eventually she will lower her voice and say unemployment is a scourge which, given the chance, she will eradicate. She has had the chance. She has refused to take it and she will not be forgiven.

Mr Lawson said that in his first Parliament the Government has been the crucial priority of bringing down the unemployment level of government borrowing inherited from Labour. That borrowing had not only fuelled inflation; it drove up interest rates and reduced the burden of deferred taxation which would sooner or later have to be paid.

This Government has reduced the borrowing requirement and repaid all the foreign debt it had inherited.

Fiscal priority in this Parliament could shift to the reduction and reform of taxation started in the last Budget.

The abolition of the pernicious national insurance surcharge took effect only on October 1. Jobs had been free of that tax for nearly 40 years, scarcely sufficient time to assess the benefits of abolition. The tax charges announced in this year's Budget could have their full effect only in the coming year of 1985-86.

Thus there was already built into the system a tax cut of £1.5b next year, and with the instrument, the necessary qualifications yesterday the prospect was that the Government's next budget was a further £1.5b.

Mr Hattersley accused the Government of using high unemployment as a means to curb wages. He was wrong. The Government was using it to curb wages in order to reduce unemployment. Mr Hattersley knew that wage moderation could generate more jobs, and was the right way to do so.

Mr Hattersley had proposed today the very policies that were tried before when his party was in government - tried and found wanting, tested and failed.

Our policies (he said) had been shown to lead to inflation, as we said always said they would. We said we would bring inflation down, and we did. We said lower inflation would lead to growth and jobs. We said lower inflation would bring jobs and it has. But the Government's policies were designed to facilitate the creation of wealth and jobs. The first year of the expanded business expansion scheme, 1983-84, was most encouraging.

The Government estimated that at least £75m and probably more was raised by small businesses under the scheme in 1983-84. More than 10,000 investors had put their money into over 400 small companies.

About 30 per cent of the

companies had raised £50,000 or less. Fifty per cent had raised between £50,000 and £250,000 and a few raised £1m or more.

Particularly encouraging was the fact that well over half the total investment, at least £41m, had gone to young or very young start-up companies. The rest had gone to more mature, but still small companies.

The full results of a survey of the scheme would be published shortly.

The importance of direct ownership had been a constant theme. Interest in share ownership was growing far beyond the employees of particular companies and British Telecom had handled a million or more telephone calls requesting information on shares.

In 1979, there had been fewer than 30 profit-sharing schemes in the whole of British industry but today there were 788 with many more planned and since 1979, more than 500,000 employees had benefited.

This had created a new set of attitudes, far removed from the "them and us" attitude which had bedevilled the country for too long. It led to better motivation, higher profits, faster expansion and more jobs.

It was a long-term policy but there was no short cut.

Mr James Callaghan (Cardiff, South and Penarth, Lab), the former Prime Minister, said there was a gloomy long-term prospect for unemployment and fewer jobs. If the country carried on as at present, with the long-term secular decline of the economy, it would sink into some general, shabby, penury. In the next 20 years the Government should change policy to get higher production and use its international influence to achieve the same. They must follow policies in trade and aid which would enable developing countries to increase foreign earnings.

There had been misjudging of the miners' strike. Both sides now said negotiations were at an end. It was time to carry your own weight. The Government should make it clear to the miners that they were not to be carried by the Government. They should make it clear to the miners that they were not to be carried by the Government. They should make it clear to the miners that they were not to be carried by the Government.

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Callaghan: Ministers must change their tune

He did not think it was possible to pin everything on precise interpretation of every word in that document when it was couched in general terms. A revised Plan for Government was a long time in the future.

The Government should go further, it should sponsor exceptional and imaginative measures to offer new jobs and new hope to the areas facing collapse so communities could see a clear way ahead.

The miners' leaders must not permit the exceptional loyalty and dogged resistance of the miners to be dissipated and drained away by a ragged break in their ranks. If the leadership came to a conclusion nothing more could be gained than the Government and coal board to their pledges to ensure a future for these wonderful and worthy communities.

Mr Francis Pym (South East Cambridgeshire, C) said the Government's speech said little about strategy. He urged the Government to think more positively and more constructively about the long-term, to look further ahead with more imagination, to anticipate future trends and developments more carefully.

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Kinnock in clash on aid cash

FAMINE RELIEF

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, accused Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, of a shameful answer when he asked her in the Commons to reverse the cuts in overseas aid. The Prime Minister said that the budget had allowed Britain to respond to the situation in Ethiopia and Britain would be able to do so again to a similar situation.

Mr Kinnock, in opening exchanges said: The Government has cut overseas aid by £160m in the past four years. Has that programme stopped or will it continue, or, in the name of humanity, will the reverse be done and will the cuts be reversed?

Mrs Thatcher: I cannot give any more information than is contained in this year's autumn statement which is in precisely the same form as that of the previous year's autumn statement.

In other words, the budget of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, including overseas development aid, was given as a global sum.

There are two departments which have precisely the same budget, as was anticipated in the white paper. It has not been increased or decreased. The total amount was £1,800m in 1984-85 and £1,870m in 1985-86.

Mr Kinnock: Hunger has not decreased at all. This country feels it has a moral responsibility and wants to discharge it. She is still dodging. The Chancellor dodged yesterday (Monday), and the Minister for Overseas Development (Mr Timothy Raison) last week.

She is the Prime Minister. Can she tell us exactly what has been done? Are there any cuts or is she too ashamed to say?

Mrs Thatcher: The global budget is done at this time of year. Within the total budget, separate provision is made by the Foreign Secretary.

Last year it was up on the previous year, 1983-84, when the total Foreign Office budget was £1,683m. I have not the precise aid figures. We have gone up to £1,870m this year.

That budget has allowed us to respond to Ethiopia and there will be no question but that we will respond in future in the same way with humanitarian aid.

Mr Kinnock: That is a shameful answer from the Prime Minister. I do not think either the general public or the people engaged in trying to help the hungry will forgive her for that.

Will she now reverse the cuts programme and discharge the responsibility of this country to the poor of this world?

Mrs Thatcher: He is trying to distract from the fact that this country led the world on aid for Ethiopia. He does not like that and he is trying to distract from it.

The budget in future for the Foreign Office will be sufficient to enable humanitarian aid of that kind.

Mr James Lester (Bristol, C): Will she also inquire what effect and what machinery there is to deal with the diverse rate of exchange and the effect on our aid budget, in view of our commitment in the Queen's Speech to a substantial overseas aid programme, which is supported in all parts of this House.

Mrs Thatcher: The Foreign Office budget, including aid, is substantial. Most aid expenditure is in sterling and not therefore affected by exchange rate movements.

any order will be conditioned not only by the initial order from the RAF but the prospect of overseas sales.

Mr Paddy Ashdown (Yeovil, Lib): The only aircraft designed fully to meet the RAF's requirements is the Westland RAC, a helicopter. Its choice could provide significant reciprocal Far Eastern orders for British industry.

It is important to provide the RAF with aircraft of an less capability than they require. Mr Butler: This exchange is typical of the lobbying which has already taken place, is taking place and will continue to take place for some few weeks.

The servicing of Nimrod aircraft would be put out to competitive tender, Mr Adam Butler, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, said during questions in the Commons.

He added that this issue would be examined very carefully to identify whether companies could carry out the work and obtain security clearance.

He said yesterday: "While Britain has a defence policy that rests on the first use of nuclear weapons, we have no defence policy. I have told the Inland Revenue that that is my reason for withholding the money."

Mr Kent said that if he was taken to court and ordered to pay the £31, as has happened to other people involved in the Peace Tax Campaign, he would still refuse to pay.

It would be up to the authorities to find ways of recovering the money from him.

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Lord Stockton condemns 'new kind of wicked hatred'

HOUSE OF LORDS

Britain could not afford the miners' strike, the growing division between a comparatively prosperous south and an ailing north and Midlands and a new kind of wicked hatred among different types of people, the Earl of Stockton, formerly Mr Harold Macmillan, said in the House of Lords.

Lord Stockton, criticism and mutual hatred should be replaced by St Paul's great theme of faith, hope and above all charity.

The former Prime Minister, who was making his maiden speech during the resumed debate on the Queen's Speech, was frequently interrupted by the laughter of his colleagues.

Recalling his early days in the Commons, he said he found himself more and more out of sympathy with the policies being pursued by the government he had been elected to support.

Naturally (he went on) I became regarded with a certain distaste and even dislike by the leaders of my party. It was an awkward situation. However, I was fortunately able to deal with the matter

Malta tells 2,000 teachers to transfer

Valletta (Reuters) - Two thousand state school teachers in Malta returned to work after their seven-week strike to find that the Department of Education was transferring them to different schools.

Mr Carmel Mifsud Bonnici, the Education Minister, said the move was aimed at avoiding incidents and it was "in the interest of the teachers not to go to those schools they had abandoned during the strike". A policeman was posted at the gate of each school.

The teachers called off their strike on Saturday saying they were doing so as a gesture of good will, though their demands for better pay and working conditions had not been met. The Government and the Movement of United Teachers have begun talks on the demands.

Greece lifts Le Pen ban

Athens (Reuters) - Greece has reversed its decision not to allow the extreme right French politician, Mr Jean-Marie Le Pen, to visit Athens next month.

A government spokesman said that when the original decision was made it was believed Mr Le Pen planned to visit Greece's former military dictators in jail and demand their release. This would not be allowed.

Wife's revenge

Bahrain (Reuters) - A woman who killed her sleeping husband by pouring boiling oil over him was jailed for three years in the Gulf emirate of Ras Al-Khaimah. Sultan Muhammad, aged 30, an Indian by birth, will be deported after completing the sentence.

Malaysia denial

Kuala Lumpur (AP) - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Malaysian Prime Minister, has denied that Malaysia plans to boycott British goods in retaliation for Britain's refusal to allow Malaysia's airline more landing rights in London, the national news agency reported.

Fishermen free

Bangkok (AP) - Eighty-six Thai fishermen jailed for allegedly violating Vietnamese waters have come home, the first batch released under a Thai-Vietnamese agreement reached earlier this year. They spent 18 months in detention.

Fatal beating

Nairobi (AP) - A primary school teacher is to be charged with murder after he allegedly beat a 12-year-old pupil to death at her desk after a disturbance in class. Other pupils screamed and wept during the beating.

Japanese alert

Tokyo (AP) - A day after a Soviet bomber violated Japanese airspace, 32 Japanese jets scrambled when seven Soviet bombers flew through international airspace near Japan, a Defence Agency spokesman said.

Reporter shot

Brasilia (Reuters) - A Brazilian crime reporter, Senhor Mario Eugenio, was murdered by men who shot and stabbed him as he left a radio station here. He had been investigating vigilante death squads.

Acid cloud

Kempten (Reuters) - Police told inhabitants of this Bavarian town to stay indoors after an escape of hydrochloric acid from a local chemical plant. No serious injuries were reported.

Own goal

Washington (AFP) - A robber armed with a sawn-off shotgun held up a Chinese laundry here, decided to fire a blast into the floor to impress the owner - and shot himself in the right foot. He was arrested in hospital.

Mitterrand fails to set date for Romania visit

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Mr Stefan Andrei, the Romanian Foreign Minister, ended a 48-hour official visit to Paris yesterday having apparently obtained confirmation of President Mitterrand's expressed intention to visit Romania next year, but without succeeding in getting a specific date.

Neither President Mitterrand nor Mr Andrei made any statement after the meeting yesterday, and the Elysee Palace declined to comment on the content of the talks which lasted just under one hour. Mr Andrei is due to stay on in a private capacity in France until tomorrow.

An official visit by President Mitterrand to Romania was originally planned to take place in September, 1982, but was cancelled officially because of Mr Mitterrand's "pressure of work" and unofficially because of a sharp deterioration in Franco-Romanian relations, due to increasing French concern over Romania's lack of respect for human rights.

Official French sources let it be understood at the time that

France was particularly angry about the disappearance of Virgil Tanase, a Romanian dissident writer who had defected to France in 1977. The sources indicated that Mr Tanase had been kidnapped by Romanian secret police, but it was revealed later that he has been hidden by the French secret police after receiving threats against his life.

After his meeting with Mr Andrei on Monday, M Claude Cheysson, the French Foreign Minister, spoke warmly of the "remarkable effort" made by the Romanian Government over the past two years in settling more than 200 "humanitarian" cases, mainly involving the adoption of Romanian children by French couples.

It is unlikely that France feels that Romania really has had a change of heart on human rights, however. It is more a question of feeling that the time is ripe for opening up a dialogue with certain Eastern block countries.

Nicaragua crisis • Shultz back in US • Brasilia summit • Managua mobilizes • EEC concern

Sandinistas confirm they received helicopter gunships from Russia

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Father Miguel d'Escoto, the Nicaraguan Foreign Minister, yesterday confirmed for the first time that Soviet-built helicopter gunships had been delivered to Nicaragua last week. They were in crates unloaded from a Soviet vessel in the Pacific port of Corinto which the Reagan Administration said might contain MiG21 jet aircraft.

Father d'Escoto, interviewed on ABC's *Good Morning America* television show, said "a few helicopters" had been delivered. Although he did not identify their type, they are believed by Nicaraguan rebels to be Mi-24 attack helicopters, which defence experts say are among the best counter-insurgency weapons in the world.

The helicopters are likely to prove a highly effective weapon for the Sandinista regime in its fight against the US-backed Contra guerrillas fighting in the jungles and mountains along Nicaragua's border with Honduras.

Although the Reagan Administration now concedes Nicaragua has not received MiGs, it has shifted its concern to what Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, has described as a "tremendously increased flow of offensive

weaponry" from the Soviet Union to the Sandinistas.

Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, who returned to Washington yesterday after attending a meeting of the Organization of American States in Brasilia, said that the United States would work in every way possible to rid the Western hemisphere of "the aggressive and subversive influence of Soviet arms shipments to Nicaragua".

Meanwhile, a US human rights organization has strongly criticized the Reagan Administration for its "unabashed use of half truths and of outright lies" in regard to the Nicaraguan Government's treatment of its Miskito Indian population.

A report by the Americans Watch Committee said: "It is false that 'thousands (of Miskitos) have been slaughtered' as the President said on May 9. It is also false that the Miskitos 'have been starved and abused'."

It added that the Miskitos' human rights situation had improved significantly in the past year.

● **SAO PAULO:** The situation in Central America, Latin American debts and the Falklands were amongst topics discussed on the first day of the

meeting in Brasilia of the Organization of American States (Patrick Knight writes).

Señor Nora Astorga, the Nicaraguan Vice-Foreign Minister, accused the United States of practicing terrorism against her country, and international law.

"For four years, we have been suffering state terrorism practiced by the United States, with the sole objective of changing the will of our people from consolidating their revolution, the first pluralistic democratic process in Nicaragua."

● **MANAGUA:** Tanks were rumbling on the streets of Managua for the second day yesterday taking part in a dress rehearsal for the defence of the Nicaraguan capital against a possible American invasion (Our Correspondent writes).

Sandinista leaders said the Army would remain in a state of "permanent alert" until the crisis was over. Twenty-three Soviet-built T54 and T55 tanks were deployed on the north side of the city, 11 of them were stationed at key intersections.

Young army recruits, some of them only 16 years' old, were practising combat drill in open spaces around the edge of town. In an overgrown football field



Nicaragua still smiles: A young soldier on a Russian tank in Managua, and Señora Nora Astorga, the Deputy Foreign Minister (right), at the OAS assembly in Brasilia.

soldiers were learning how to jump on and off a moving tank. The exercise was followed by a crowd of gleeful children who were invited afterwards to climb onboard the tanks.

The exercises appear to have a strong morale-boosting element. In one field an officer addressed the onlookers, urging them to help defend "the achievements of the revolution. These are your tanks, we are your Army", he said. "We are

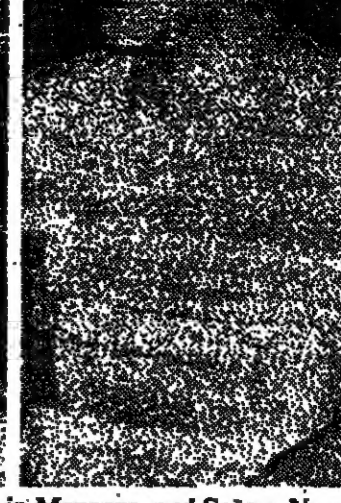


Nicaragua still smiles: A young soldier on a Russian tank in Managua, and Señora Nora Astorga, the Deputy Foreign Minister (right), at the OAS assembly in Brasilia.

ready to fight to the last drop of blood".

Meanwhile, Señora Daniel Orfega, the junta coordinator, was declared President-elect yesterday by the Supreme Electoral Council of Nicaragua.

● **BRUSSELS:** An independent EEC assessment of the increasingly dangerous situation in Nicaragua is to be made by Community foreign ministers at a special meeting here next Tuesday (Ian Murray writes).



Nicaragua still smiles: A young soldier on a Russian tank in Managua, and Señora Nora Astorga, the Deputy Foreign Minister (right), at the OAS assembly in Brasilia.

The subject was raised informally during the Council of Ministers session, which ended yesterday when a majority of countries argued that the left-wing Sandinista rulers of Nicaragua had won a convincing victory in the elections.

Concern was voiced, however, particularly by Britain, over the fact that a third of the population had not voted, while up to a quarter had supported very extreme opposition groups.

Italy offers extra cash to maintain Lomé links

From Ian Murray, Brussels

Italy, one of the poorest countries in the EEC, yesterday volunteered to pay extra to help to buy a new cooperation agreement with the 64 developing countries linked to the Community by the Lomé Convention.

The Italian offer came at a foreign council in Brussels, after West Germany and Britain refused point-blank to increase their contributions above the level agreed in principle last month. This would have provided a total of £4,200m in aid over five years.

As a result of the Italian offer to pay about £75m more than it needs to, however, it seemed likely last night that the Community would be able to increase the total aid package by about £300m, enough to ensure that the third Lomé agreement will be signed next month.

Part of the extra cash is accounted for by assuming that Spain and Portugal will be members of the Community and paying their share of the aid programme from 1986.

In parallel negotiations, however, the existing member states failed to make any progress on the final difficult chapters which have to be completed this month.

This means that Spain and Portugal can at best expect to be offered "take it or leave it" terms at the final negotiating session.

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Should you suffer one of these conditions, obviously you'll want the best possible care. You may want to choose your own doctor... have a private room... extra nursing care... all of which cost money. You'll be faced with loss of income while you're in hospital or convalescing at home. And your household bills will keep piling up.

New Living Assurance is the answer Living Assurance provides double protection for you and your family - with high life cover and help when you need money most... for convalescence, for extra care, for peace of mind.

Here's how Living Assurance works. Cover is offered through four basic plans, providing £10,000, £20,000, £30,000, or £40,000 of life cover. Once insured, you are also protected in the event that you are stricken with cancer, a stroke, or a heart attack, or if you require surgery for coronary artery disease. A lump sum "living benefit" equaling 25% of your life cover will be paid directly to you following diagnosis of one of these conditions. So, you would receive an immediate payment of £2,500, £5,000, £7,500, or £10,000 depending on the plan chosen.

Most important, even after this payment is made, the balance of your life cover - 75% - remains in force. Thus, you get a substantial amount of money at that most critical moment of illness... and you continue to protect your family's security no matter what the future brings.

The advantages of low-cost term assurance... plus a guaranteed right to convert to a whole life or endowment plan.

Your policy will stay in effect protecting you for a full 15 years (or until age 65, whichever is sooner).

You have high-level cover during the time of your life when your responsibilities are the greatest.

And if you so choose, you have the guaranteed option to convert the existing amount of your term assurance to a regular whole life or endowment plan.

while your policy is still in effect. This is important because life insurance can be more difficult to get as you grow older, especially if you've had a health problem.

Benefits that won't decrease... premiums that won't increase.

The benefits you choose now will remain at the same high level for the full term of your policy, just as your premiums will never go up. Even if you receive your "living benefit", your life cover is only reduced by the amount of that payment.

Plus, Lloyd's Life guarantees not to cancel your policy, as long as you pay your premiums in the agreed manner. You're assured protection for the full term of your policy.

HOW TO APPLY 1. Complete the information requested about yourself. 2. Indicate the plan of your choice. 3. Answer the questions by ticking "Yes" or "No". If you answer "Yes" to any question, please give full details on a separate sheet of paper. Although we reserve the right to decline your request, there is an excellent chance that you will still be eligible. You must disclose all relevant facts. Such facts are those which an insurer would regard as likely to influence the assessment and acceptance of a proposal. If you are in doubt as to the relevance of any particular information, you should disclose it, as failure to do so may affect the benefits payable. 4. Read the Declaration, sign and date your application and post together with your £1 registration fee to: Living Assurance Administrator, FREEPOST, Camberley, Surrey GU15 3BQ (no stamp is required).

SEE HOW MUCH PROTECTION YOU CAN HAVE WITH THE PLAN OF YOUR CHOICE!

Age last birthday	PLAN A \$10,000 life insurance; \$2,500 "living benefit"	PLAN B \$20,000 life insurance; \$5,000 "living benefit"	PLAN C \$30,000 life insurance; \$7,500 "living benefit"	PLAN D \$40,000 life insurance; \$10,000 "living benefit"	
M	F	MONTHLY PREMIUMS			
Age up to		\$ 3.95	\$ 6.95	\$ 9.95	\$12.95
26-30					
27	31	4.45	7.95	11.45	14.95
28	32	4.95	8.95	12.95	16.95
29	33	5.45	9.95	14.45	18.95
30	34	5.95	10.95	15.95	20.95
31	35	6.45	11.95	17.45	22.95
32	36	6.95	12.95	18.95	24.95
33	37	7.45	13.95	20.45	26.95
34	38	8.10	14.25	22.40	29.55
35	39	8.70	16.45	24.20	31.95
36	40	9.40	17.95	26.30	34.75
37	41	10.15	19.35	28.45	37.75
38	42	10.95	20.55	30.90	40.95
39	43	11.75	22.95	33.35	44.15
40	44	12.95	24.15	35.75	47.35
41	45	13.45	25.95	38.45	50.95
42	46	14.50	28.05	41.60	55.15
43	47	15.95	30.15	44.95	59.35
44	48	16.65	32.45	48.05	63.75
45	49	17.95	34.95	51.95	N/A*
46	50	19.20	37.45	55.70	N/A
47	51	20.60	40.25	59.90	N/A
48	52	22.10	43.25	64.40	N/A
49	53	23.70	46.45	69.20	N/A
50	54	25.45	49.95	74.35	N/A
51	55	27.30	53.65	N/A	N/A
52	56	29.35	57.75	N/A	N/A
53	57	31.95	62.15	N/A	N/A
54	58	35.05	66.95	N/A	N/A

Warsaw warns visitors off Solidarity after Rifkind row

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The Polish Government, still a little shocked by the outspoken criticism of the British Minister of State at the Foreign Office, Mr Rifkind, said yesterday that future high-level visitors from the West should not meet representatives for the outlawed Solidarity trade union.

"It is not customary to have meetings with representatives of extra-legal structures," Mr Jerzy Urban, the government spokesman, told a news conference. "If representatives of the Polish Government were to visit Britain they would not try to acquaint themselves with the Irish situation by meeting the IRA," future ministerial visits should take place in accordance with "the mutually agreed programme".

Mr Rifkind met three Solidarity advisers during the non-official part of his visit to Warsaw earlier this month and said later he was simply seeking the views of as broad a spectrum of Polish society.

However, he also expressed scepticism about the new post-Solidarity trade union movement, detected a wide gulf between the leaders and the led in Poland, and demonstratively laid a wreath on the grave of the pro-Solidarity priest, Jerzy Popieluszko, who was murdered last month, allegedly by secret policemen.

The Polish Government is concerned that each Western ministerial visitor will now feel obliged to raise publicly human rights issues and give the impression that it is still coming under pressure from Nato. The West German Foreign Minister, Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, is due in Poland next week and is expected to press the case of several dozen families of German extraction who want to emigrate. He is also likely to seek a speedy resolution to the occupation of the West German Embassy in Poland by about a dozen East Germans and Poles.

Mr Urban said yesterday of the occupation that Warsaw was not involved in the talks, but would not give in to "blackmail and extortion".

He also said the Government would soon take legal steps against the new KOPF human rights groups which he described as "anti-state structures".

On the Popieluszko kidnap, Mr Urban said police were conducting an in-depth investigation into the background of the main abductor, to find out who was really behind the crime.

Greeks are first to ban torture by law

From Mario Modiano, Athens

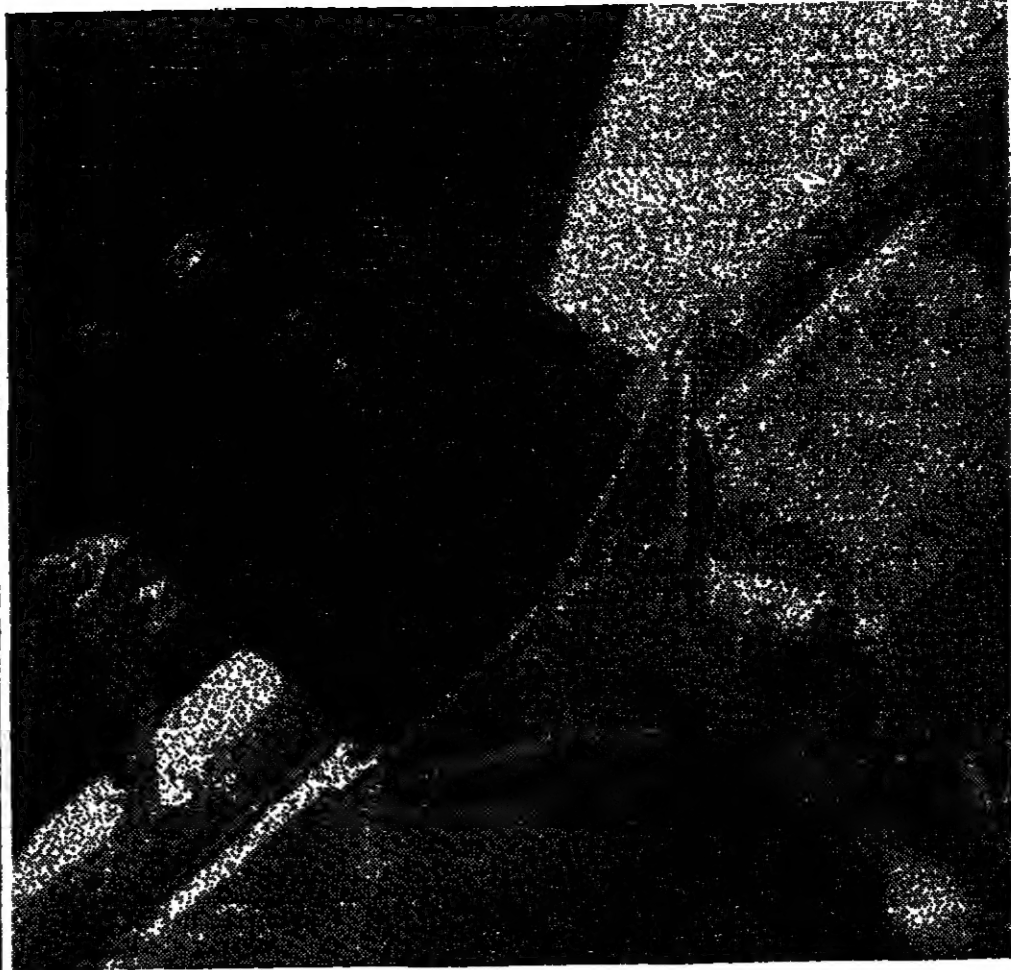
Greece yesterday became the first country in the world to outlaw formally the use of torture on prisoners, when Parliament voted unanimously to make torture a punishable offence.

Under the new law, which requires a second reading before it can be applied, state employees who subject people in their custody to physical or mental torture, are liable to imprisonment from five to 20 years and dismissal from the service, or cashiering in the case of military personnel.

If death occurs as a result of torture, a life sentence becomes mandatory. In the case of systematic use of torture, the minimum sentence is 10 years. Orders from superiors for the application of torture are illegal and therefore not binding.

The text of the law, listing various forms of torture, is bound to evoke memories of past horrors to many of those jailed by the military junta which ruled Greece between 1967 and 1974, not least Mr George-Alexander Mangakis, the Minister of Justice, who introduced the Bill.

It was with a view to preventing a recurrence of systematic torture under any circumstances that the Greek constitution, approved in 1975, instructed Parliament to pass legislation punishing offences against human dignity.



Novel rescue for second satellite

Astronauts Joe Allen (left) and Dale Gardner manhandling the Palapa communications satellite into the payload bay of Discovery on Monday to bring it back to Earth for repair.

Yesterday mission control agreed with a recommendation from the spacewalkers that they attempt an untried recovery plan when they go after a second stranded satellite today.

Under the plan, Mr Gardner will jet over to the Westar 6 satellite, capturing it with a pole-like device, and then guide it over to Mr Allen on a work station at the end of the shuttle's 50ft robot arm.

With Mr Allen grasping the 21ft satellite firmly Mr Garner will attach a docking collar on the base of the craft and the two astronauts will berth it manually in the cargo bay for return to earth.

Buhari defends OAU over Polisario and blames Hassan

Addis Ababa (AP, AFP) —

The Nigerian leader, Major-General Mohammed Buhari, yesterday defended the Organisation of African Unity's decision to seat Western Sahara guerrillas, saying it showed the maturity of the grouping.

Nigeria gave its backing to the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic only hours before Monday's opening of the twentieth OAU summit and thus helped to assure its admission.

"At 21, our organization has indeed come of age. Their maturity was demonstrated at the opening session of the summit. We have not allowed our differences of opinion to prevent our organization from meeting," General Buhari told a news conference.

The Nigerian leader, on his first trip abroad since taking power in a military coup in December last year, said his country had decided to recognize the SADR fighting against Morocco for control of the Western Sahara — because Morocco had failed to fulfil promises to hold an independence referendum in the former Spanish colony or hold direct talks with the SADR's guerrilla wing, the Polisario Front.

Efforts to negotiate a compromise were "made very difficult by the kingdom of Morocco".

King Hassan withdrew from the OAU on Monday in protest at the seating of the guerrillas.

General Buhari made clear that delegates had resolved the Sahara issue and planned to move on to political and economic questions. He has been elected OAU vice-chairman.

He predicted the SADR would step up its war, but added that its best prospect was to fight "until they come to some agreement with Morocco".

The general, wearing a white robe instead of his usual military fatigues, was asked twice if Nigeria would give direct aid to the Polisario Front, but said he would not make any firm commitments.

"If the OAU sits and agrees on having combined forces to go (into Western Sahara), Nigeria will participate, as we did in Chad," he said without elaboration. Nigeria sent in a peace-keeping force during Chad's civil war.

There was little likelihood, however, of the OAU considering any intervention in Western Sahara.

Famine in Africa

Food shortages worsen despite massive aid

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

A new assessment of Africa's food needs, issued here yesterday by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), says food shortages are still worsening in many countries affected by drought, despite the massive food aid programmes now under way in Ethiopia, Chad and other countries.

The latest review of food production and needs in the African region says the situation is worst in Ethiopia, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Mozambique. But Burundi, Kenya, Morocco and Rwanda are now added to the growing list of African countries needing what the FAO calls "exceptional food and rehabilitation assistance".

Within the past few months, international food aid for Africa has increased dramatically, and the FAO reports that donations for agricultural rehabilitation and post-emergency measures, designed to restore local food production, have risen from \$113 million (£39m) to \$190m.

One of the dangers of the present famine is that farmers are eating their remaining seed stocks, leaving themselves with

Hume seeks more help from Thatcher

Cardinal Hume, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, asked Mrs Thatcher yesterday to increase government aid to Ethiopia.

In a meeting at 10 Downing Street, the Prime Minister was also urged to press for more help from Britain's partners in the European Community. Last month the Government pledged an extra £5m for drought-affected areas in Africa and 6,500 tonnes of food aid for Ethiopia.

no seed for planting when the rain does come.

Another problem is that livestock herds have been reduced drastically because there is insufficient grazing to keep the animals alive. If supplementary food is available, this loss can be reduced, the FAO says.

Summing up, the FAO reports that Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe will need about 1.1 million tons of food aid over the coming year to make up for the poor 1984 harvests.

The role of British charities

By Tony Samstag

British aid and development charities, large and small, have been working tirelessly, not only to raise money for famine relief in Ethiopia, but also to see that equipment and supplies reach their destination as quickly as possible. Some charities involved and their shipments:

● Oxfam. £2m raised, of which £1.7m allocated. 10,000 tonnes of wheat via port of Assab distributed to southern famine areas; 65 tonnes of Oxfam "energy biscuits" have reached Korem camp in the Wollo region, with another 100 tonnes due mid-December; two nutrition teams of three each dispatched.

● Save the Children Fund. £2m raised, £1.7m allocated. Shipment of eight lorries and 1,500 tonnes milled wheat due Assab by early December. 21 tonnes high-energy foodstuffs flown to Addis Ababa. Seven British staff dispatched to join team of 60 Ethiopian nutritionists at Korem; five more left yesterday.

● Christian Aid. £1m total. £650,000 dispatched, mostly as cash grants to relief organizations in Eritrea and Tigré via Sudan, but £100,000 in equipment and supplies.

● British Red Cross. £500,000, of which £230,000 spent on shipments of stoves, tents, bedding and feeding equipment flown from Stansted and now at Bati camp, Wollo, via Addis. Additional flights to Addis scheduled tomorrow.

● War on Want. £620,000, most of which allocated for grain to Eritrea and Tigré. First 1,000 tonnes due Port Sudan "any day now", remaining 4,000 tonnes in about five weeks.

● World Vision of Britain. £160,000, most of which sent to Addis office to supply and service five feeding and medical centres in Wollo, Shoa and Gondar.

● Ethiopia's Jews, page 12

Science report, page 14

Sudan tribe may face extinction

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

Details of yet another famine-afflicted area in Africa, in the hills south of Port Sudan, have been given here by a Swedish Red Cross medical team which spent two weeks there. They fear that the entire Beja tribe of nomads, an estimated 750,000 people, may be threatened with extinction.

"There are hardly any children under two; they've died," Dr Sven Ashberg said. "Though numbers are obviously smaller, individual suffering is as bad as it was in Biafra."

Describing the Beja as a "forgotten group", the League of Red Cross Societies, appealing for funds, says the worst-affected areas of north-east Sudan, with some 220,000 people, are Derudet, Haiya and Sinkat.

Relief officials here have welcomed the American proposal for an emergency conference to ensure proper coordination of aid. "Appeals are coming almost daily from one organization or another, an official said. They're confusing and the public will become impervious."

Stopping briefly in Geneva and Rome on his way home, the Ethiopian Relief Commissioner, Mr Dawit, Wolde-Giorgis Dawit, said it must be emphasized that the present catastrophe was the result of the failure of the small rainy season in March and April. The impact of the lack of rain in June and July, the main season, would be felt only in January.

Pointing out that the relief agencies estimated minimum food requirements at 60,000 tonnes a month over the next year, the commissioner said the total of governments' pledges was still far short of this.

According to the UN Disaster Relief Office (Undro) here, pledges now stand at 208,000 tonnes. It puts the requirement at 500,000 tonnes up to June.

EEC says 'Save It'

Brussels — Speed limits, bus lanes, a reduction in motorway tolls and border checks, and synchronized traffic light systems are under consideration by EEC member states as ways of saving energy (Ian Murray writes).

These are some of the practical steps for reducing the Community's oil import bill which are being recommended in a set of guidelines put before energy ministers meeting in Brussels yesterday.

The guidelines also argue for construction codes to be drawn up to ensure that energy-saving techniques are followed in putting up new buildings. Economic water heaters and central heating systems would have to be installed, alongside heat-saving ventilation and air conditioning units.

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مركز الامم

Commentary



Geoffrey Smith

President Mannerheim of Finland, who is paying an official visit to Britain this week, is an unusual head of state. His style is unpretentious. His smile comes readily, even on occasion taking the form of a friendly grin. His conversation is relaxed. One would never mistake him for a hard-headed business executive.

This is a true reflection of the man. It is also the deliberate act of the politician. He has seen it as his role to take the drama out of the presidency, as he indicated in his interview with me in Helsinki which is published in the Times Special Supplement on Finland today.

He succeeded as President a man who had held the office for a quarter of a century and who did more than any other person to determine Finland's position in the post-war world.

In his rugged way President Kekkonen performed a historic service for the country. He recognized that the bleak logic of geography required Finland to establish a close relationship with the Soviet Union if it was to preserve its freedom. So he devoted himself to winning the confidence of successive Soviet leaders.

In his way he steered Finland through a number of crises. But his personal style bred tensions within the country. He created the impression that Finnish security hung by a thread, and that it depended upon his continued presence in office. So he fostered an atmosphere of insecurity at the same time as he safeguarded the country's freedom.

Change of style, same policy

President Koivisto has changed the style while maintaining the policy. This was the second time I had been to Helsinki since he took over, and on each occasion the political mood has been more relaxed than in the past.

That may be attributed partly to a sense of relief that the post-Kekkonen period has passed off without any traumas. But there is more to it than that. Whereas stable relations with the Soviet Union were made to seem a personal achievement under President Kekkonen, they now look to be a fact of life under President Koivisto.

He has done this by playing down his own role. When he said to me that he had been trying to "develop those traits in our constitution that have something to do with the parliamentary system" he was not uttering a political cliché.

Finland is a country, in this respect like France, with a directly elected, politically active President, and a government based upon Parliament. Dr Koivisto was meaning that he had been deliberately according a larger part to the Government within this system.

To play down the role of the presidency in this way is something that only a very popular President could afford to do. But it is in the national interest at this stage in Finland's history.

It reduces the personal element in Finnish foreign policy and thereby emphasizes the truth that the substance of this policy will not change whoever is president, which most strengthens the country's security.

It also removes the conspiratorial factor from Finnish politics. President Kekkonen not only used to intervene frequently in Finnish politics, but also sometimes gave the impression that to oppose him might put the country's security in jeopardy. This encouraged the atmosphere of a political court, in which it was critical to be in the President's favour. Nothing of that sort happens under President Koivisto.

In the mainstream of development

Yet despite this transformation in style, the basic policy remains unchanged. It has to. Finland continues to move economically more and more into the mainstream of West European development. Its recent economic performance is in most respects an example to Britain.

In internal politics Finland has remained a West European democracy.

But the diplomatic constraints under which Finnish government has to be conducted were evident from President Koivisto's refusal to condemn the Soviet Union over Afghanistan while condemning the United States over Grenada.

He has accepted these constraints, recognizing the realities that geography has imposed upon Finland. It will always have to be careful of its relationship with the Soviet Union. But President Koivisto is exercising that care in a way that impinges no more than is necessary upon Finnish affairs.



Guard of honour: President Koivisto of Finland inspecting the RAF Regiment at Heathrow airport yesterday at the start of his official visit to Britain.

Svetlana tracked down in Moscow

From Richard Owen Moscow

The hunt for Stalin's daughter, Mrs Svetlana Alliluyeva, who had gone to ground since her return to Russia was announced nearly two weeks ago, ended yesterday outside the pink, fin de siècle facade of the Sovetskaya Hotel after she had been spotted by an American television crew.

To the puzzlement of Russians, Western correspondents descended on the hotel, to be rewarded with a glimpse of

Svetlana in the protective company of the KGB, but disappointed by a brisk "no comment".

The return of Svetlana, aged 38, and her 13-year-old American-born daughter Olga, was announced on November 2 by Moscow television. They were said to have returned just over a week before on an Aeroflot flight from London. The Kremlin restored Svetlana's Soviet citizenship, even though she had bitterly denounced her homeland as a prison after

defecting in 1967, and conferred citizenship on Olga.

It was said that Svetlana and her daughter were staying at a dacha with her two Russian-born children by previous marriages: Josif, a cardiologist, and Ekaterina, a geologist.

As the price of her forgiveness Svetlana Alliluyeva would give a press conference to reveal the truth about her 17 "nightmare years" in the West. But then came reports that Josif and Ekaterina disagreed with their mother's decision to bring Olga.

Zapu pair on brink of joining Mugabe

From Jan Reath Harare

The two remaining Zapu members serving in the Zimbabwe Government appeared fixed yesterday on a course of defection to the ruling Zanu (PF) party.

The two - Miss Jane Ngunyema, the Deputy Minister of Manpower, Planning and Development, and Mr Daniel Mngwenya, the Provincial Governor of Matabeleland North, were not included in the dismissal on Monday of the last two full Zapu Cabinet ministers, Mr Cephas Msiipa and Mr John Nkomo.

Mr Msiipa and Mr Nkomo (no relation to Mr Joshua Nkomo, the Zapu president) received their marching orders after Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, blamed Zapu for the murder on Friday of a senator in the southern border town of Beitbridge and said he was breaking ties with Zapu.

The two Nowenyas, who are not related, have been increasingly isolated by Zapu for some time. Miss Ngunyema was Zapu's Assistant Secretary for Welfare on the Party's powerful national executive committee, while Mr Ngunyema was a member of the lesser central committee. As a governor, he remained an MP and was accorded Deputy Minister status.

Neither attended Zapu's congress last month, nor were they re-elected.

India's general election

Riding wave of sympathy

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Journalists and diplomats sat in a well-carpeted drawing room in the diplomatic quarter of Delhi this week, and they all agreed on one thing. To postpone the general election in India could only lose votes for the new Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and his party, Congress (I).

The immense sympathy vote, which almost everyone expects to return Congress to power after the assassination of his mother, would dissipate faster than Mr Gandhi's own reputation could be established.

Certainly, the new Prime Minister could not have ordered elections any more quickly. The announcement has come on the first full day without mourning. A week has been left before the official notification day.

Technically, the decision to hold elections towards the end of the term of a parliament has nothing to do with the Prime Minister. According to the constitution, it is up to the Chief Election Commissioner.

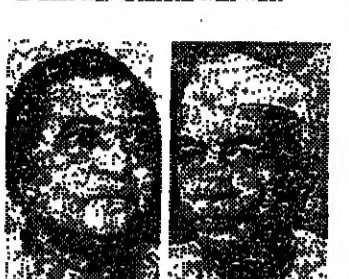
When the incumbent, Mr R. K. Trivedi, made his announcement yesterday, I asked him whether he had decided the date or Mr Gandhi. He said the election commission had chosen. "In fact," he said, "I have not met the new Prime Minister."

Mr Trivedi is, however, a man whose partisanship has been called into question before. According to observers, his appointment from his earlier post as Central Vigil-

ance Commissioner, head of the anti-corruption squad, was in violation of an undertaking to Parliament that no Central Vigilance Commissioner would ever be given another government job.

He and his commissioners have an immense task to try to ensure the fairness of the polls.

The question of who will win the election is one that is going to exercise all the pundits who were sitting in the diplomatic drawing room, and many others too. The conventional wisdom is that Mr Gandhi will win.



Rallying the Opposition: Mr Rama Rao (left) and Chowdhury Charan Singh.

With a country as large as India - an electorate of more than 389 million, 429,912 polling stations, 15 official languages and 3,000 unofficial, 22 states and nine union territories, and a population riven by caste, religion, race and history - forecasting how they may vote in given different circumstances cannot be an exact science.

But, this said, Congress is the only national party whose allegiance crosses all classes, religious and castes, and which stretches into all parts of all states.

The hope for the Opposition is to try to combine into what looks something like a national party but which has strong regional roots. Mr N. T. Rama Rao, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, has made a proposal which goes some way towards this goal. He has suggested that there should be a "core" opposition combination of three national and three regional parties, around which the rest of the Opposition could congregate.

The national parties mentioned are Chowdhury Charan Singh's DMKP, the Janata Party and Mr Sharada Pawar's Congress (S). The regional parties should be Mr Rad's Telegu Desam, the National Conference of Farooq Abdullah in Kashmir and the DMK opposition party in Tamil Nadu.

A meeting will be held here today at which this proposal may well be taken up and given flesh. It would probably work well enough in the south, and the core would play second fiddle to the Communist Party in Kerala and West Bengal, but in the Hindi belt across Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, in Haryana and Orissa, there are obvious shoals on which the agreement could founder.

Rogers digs in to defend battle plan

From Frederick Bonnard Brussels

In a spirited defence of his plan of attack on the Warsaw Pact follow-on forces, General Bernard Rogers, Supreme Allied Commander Europe, said: "We won't fire the first shot, because ours is not a preemptive doctrine."

The "Rogers Plan", approved by Nato last Friday, has been criticized as unrealistic, inappropriate and provocative. General Rogers said it was none of these but "part of an overall effort to increase our ability to deter aggression in Europe", by complementing "our conventional capability to defend at our general defensive positions".

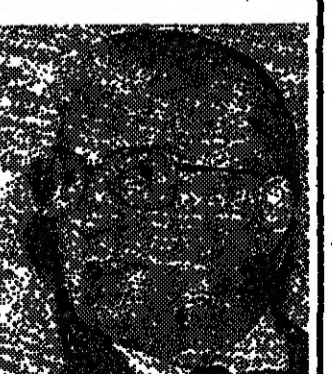
The plan is designed to deal with the enemy's rear echelons - the follow-on forces - and consists of three elements, all using modern technology.

- To acquire targets in the depth of the battlefield;
- To feed this information instantly to field commanders over reliable communications;
- To strike at these targets with new long-distance weapon systems, mostly missiles.

The critics claimed it was a new strategy which failed to take present Soviet doctrine into account, would weaken the Allied forward defences, was based on the deep strike, nuclear-assisted American air-land battle doctrine, and relied on unproven and highly expensive emergent technology.

● LONDON: Nato could not afford to do without nuclear weapons because of the extra men and conventional weapons which would be needed, General Leopold Chalupa, Commander-in-Chief in Central Europe, said in London yesterday (Henry Stanhope writes).

Changes in alliance strategy were neither necessary nor appropriate, he told the Royal United Services Institute.



General Chalupa: Nuclear weapons essential.

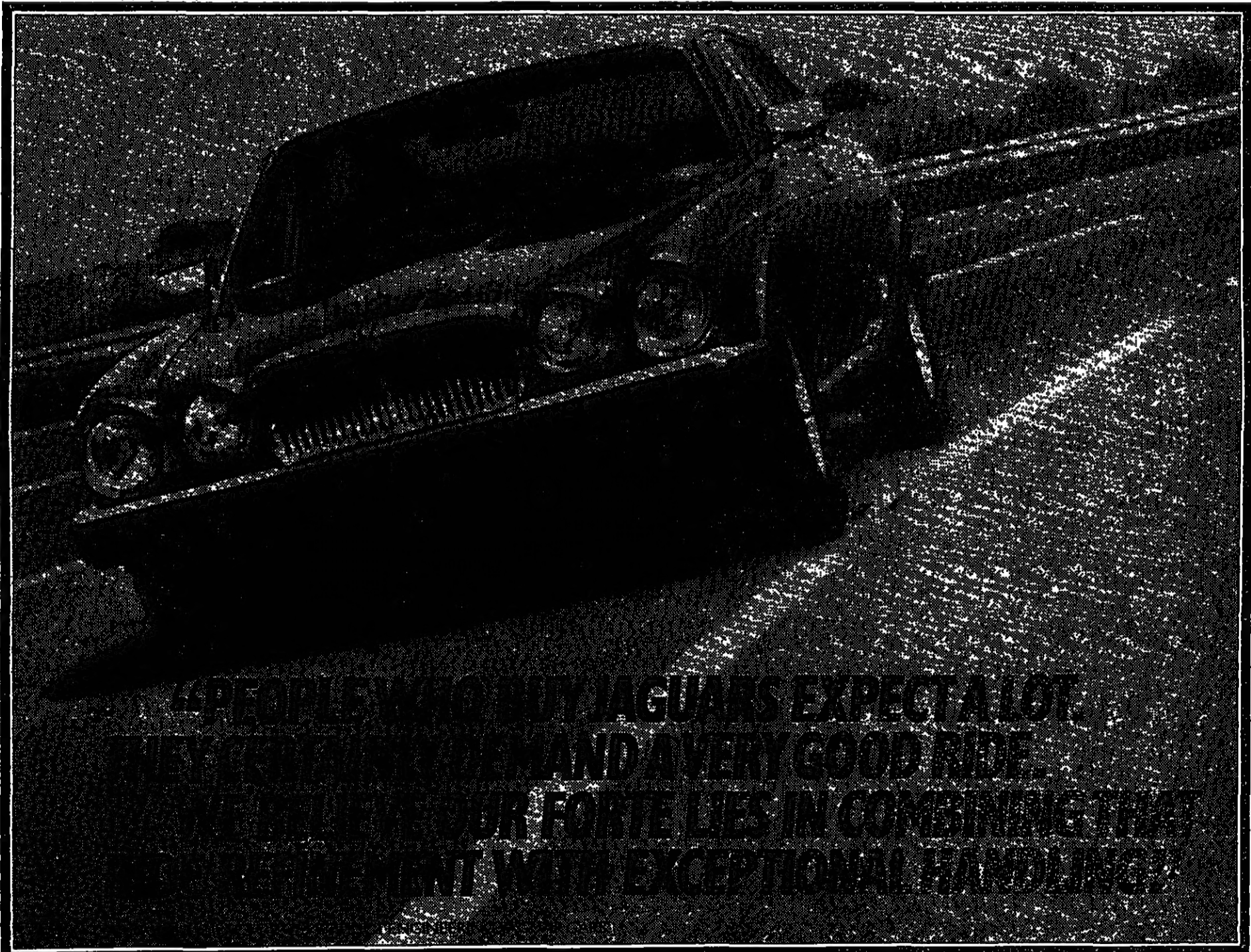
Owner charged after Turk shot at factory

Versailles (Reuters) - A factory owner, his son and a night watchman have been charged in connexion with a shooting incident in which a Turkish worker was killed and three others injured.

The Cameronian night watchman, Jacques Nazhad, was charged with murder and attempted murder in Versailles after the shooting at a factory at Epone, west of Paris, on Saturday.

Jean-Pierre Pirault, son of the factory owner, was charged with conspiracy to murder and with attempted murder and his father, Pierre Pirault, was accused of concealing evidence to pervert the course of justice.

Police sources said Kemal Ozgul, the Turk who died, was shot at point-blank range. He and other workers, mostly immigrants, were trying to occupy the factory to demand back-payment of wages.



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It's a twin-cam straight-six that has benefited from 35 years of continuous production, and the only changes we've made have been to improve its power output and enhance emission control and efficiency.

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Our philosophy is quite simple. We just try to better our own standards and always make the cars better than they were before.

That's why people love Jaguar cars. Whether building them or driving them, it's a state of mind. It's demanding further improvements; even beyond what many may already regard as the best.

We know that people who buy Jaguars are very demanding. They expect a lot. They certainly demand a very good ride.

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JAGUAR The legend grows

Cautious Hawke pledges continued growth and more for young and old

From Tony Duboudin, Melbourne

Mr Bob Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister, promised "growth, equality and peace" if the Labour government were re-elected on December 1. He was making his policy speech, which contained no costly promises, but relied heavily on Labour's record over the past 20 months.

The 45-minute speech, delivered to 1,500 specially invited guests at the Sydney Opera House yesterday, did promise an increase in spending for the aged, more child-care facilities and more resources for combating organised crime.

Mr Hawke said he was not in the business of making "grandiose" spending proposals of the kind being "thrown around" by the Opposition.

Labour's priorities in its next term, he said, would be the maintenance of strong economic and employment growth, with low inflation, a genuine reform of the taxation system and a concerted effort to attack the causes of poverty and inequality.

Mr Hawke also promised to give priority to raising the level of education, health and other services for all Australians and to continue, with renewed vigour, efforts in the cause of peace and nuclear disarmament.

He said he had asked in February last year for an act of great trust from the Australian people and had asked for

support, cooperation and active participation of the people in a new national approach, which had never been tried in Australia in peacetime - the course of national reconciliation, national recovery and national reconstruction.

"The last 20 months have seen the supreme vindication of that trust."

The Prime Minister compared the Labour Party's record of achievement, which, he said,



had placed Australia among the front-runners of the world's industrialized economies, with the alternative "recipe for economic disaster" offered by the Liberal and National parties.

Unlike the coalition, his Government was not going to endanger all that had been achieved by a "vote-buying spree." "We are not offering a grab-bag of unrelated, unachievable election promises. We are not offering a list of dollars."

However, the Prime Minister did say that a re-elected Labour Government would, among other things:

● Keep the levy for Medicare, the national health system, at its

present level for the term of the Government;

● Contribute \$A300m (about £200m) over the next three years for a home and community care programme for the aged and establish an office of the aged;

● Establish a pilot scheme to encourage unemployed people to set up their own businesses, and explore with the private sector the possibility of extending the community employment programme;

● Create over the next three years an additional 20,000 child-care places;

● Remain committed to an unrelenting attack on organized crime by giving the federal police an extra \$A17m;

● Call together, soon after the election, the state premiers to cooperate with the Federal Government in initiating a national campaign against drug abuse;

The Prime Minister also sought to reassure the aged on the assets test for pensioners, he said social security inspectors would not visit pensioners' homes; that information gathered for the assets test would not be used for any other purpose; that the assets test would not be made more stringent and that, through the proposed office of aged care, the test would be monitored to ensure that it was being fairly administered.



Charity drive: Severiano Ballesteros, winner of this year's British Open Championship, with Mr Shintaro Abe, the Japanese Foreign Minister, in Tokyo yesterday after giving some of his prize money to Japan's African relief campaign. The American golfer, Fred Couples, and two Japanese professionals, also contributed to the fund. Mr Abe leaves today for a 10-day visit to Africa, including a tour of drought-stricken Ethiopia.

Juan Carlos links Gibraltar with Hongkong deal

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

King Juan Carlos of Spain linked Gibraltar and the Anglo-Chinese agreement on Hong Kong when he made a speech on Monday night in which he toasted President Li Xianxian of China, who is on an official visit to this country.

"China's restoration of its territorial integrity has been a process which Spain has fol-

lowed, and will go on following with interest and feelings of solidarity because of the analogies and parallels existing for both countries of the consequences of past colonialism," the King said.

Señor Fernando Morán, Spain's Foreign Minister, on his return from an EEC ministerial meeting in Brussels, emphasised yesterday how recovering Gibraltar remained a natural aspiration for Spain.

Speaking on Radio Nacional, he said this was even more of a priority for Spaniards than joining the Community. "I hope there is no temptation to bring pressure so that our entry into the EEC would mean abandoning our position on Gibraltar."

Señor Morán said he expected his next meeting with Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, at the end of this month in Brussels would

produce an agreement to raise Spain's restrictions on movements to and from Gibraltar and would also open the way for a negotiating process on all the remaining issues - another reference to Spain's claim to sovereignty over the Rock.

Señor Morán has personally followed the Hong Kong negotiations in the hope that Madrid's claim to sovereignty over Gibraltar can be advanced.

Ecology and pacifism issues rock Japan

From David Watts, Tokyo

The potent combination of pacifism and ecology have given Japanese party machine politics two of its rudest shocks since the 1960s.

The setting for the first of these shocks for the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) was the seaside resort town of Zushi, a sort of Japanese Bognor Regis with its imperial palace near by for members of the royal family wanting to escape from the summer humidity of Tokyo and beaches which feature Mount Fuji as backdrop on clear days.

The people of Zushi are proud of their town and its hinterland of relatively untouched woodland, untouched that is except for an American ammunition depot which has been unused since 1978.

The Ikego Hills are one of the few natural areas left in the Tokyo plain, so when the Government announced plans to build housing for American Navy families in the hills it sparked a grassroots protest movement that first forced the resignation of the long-time Mayor of Zushi, who supported the plan, and then elected a maverick opponent of the Government's plans in his place.

The Nakasone Government has been shaken by the snuffing of its victory by Mr Kikuchi Tomio, not only because there is a commitment to the Americans under the Japan-US security treaty to provide whatever facilities US forces need in Japan, but also because it focuses unfavourable attention on the military when Tokyo is trying to push up defence spending beyond that generally acceptable to the public. Public opposition has also prevented the government giving the US Navy the night flying facilities it needs.

Mr Tomio rode to victory in Zushi with a margin of just over a thousand votes over his opponent on the support of housewives who have already petitioned the Pentagon against the plan.

"Postwar democracy is not as weak as people think," Mr Tomio said, committing himself to a full-scale fight against the planned 920 houses, even if he has to fly to the Pentagon himself to present his case.

Much now depends upon whether Mr Tomio's battle becomes a national issue and is taken up on a broader front. His own most pressing problem is in overcoming opposition within the Zushi city council.

US asked to cut arms for Taiwan

From Mary Lee, Peking

Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Chinese Prime Minister, told a visiting delegation from the US Senate yesterday that if it was difficult for the US Government to abolish the Taiwan Relations Act, it should at least comply with the principle that there was only one China.

Mr Zhao also told Senator Jake Garn, chairman of the Senate committee on banking, housing and urban affairs, that the US Government should also observe the August 1982 Sino-US joint communiqué, reducing arms sale to Taiwan.

Coincidentally, a US congressional mission is now visiting Taiwan to discuss, among other things, arms sales.

Stresa summit to lay ghost of united Germany

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The talks at Stresa today led by Chancellor Helmut Kohl, of West Germany, and Signor Bettino Craxi, the Italian Prime Minister, should show whether the quarrel over an Italian comment on the future of the two Germanies has been laid to rest.

Official spokesmen maintain that the clash in September is now so much water under the bridges. By coincidence, Signor Craxi made a flying visit yesterday to Bolzano, near the Austrian frontier, where indignation among the German-speaking citizens at the time of the quarrel resulted in public protest.

The Stresa meeting today will be devoted more to Community affairs than to the question of relations with the East after President Reagan's reelection; but that now aging two-headed eagle of a divided Germany will probably make its presence felt in one form or another.

The origin of the autumn storm was the impromptu remark by Signor Giulio Andreotti, the Italian Foreign Minister, who will also be at Stresa today. A Christian Democrat, he took part in a public debate on foreign policy at a festival on September 13 in Rome by the Communist Party. At the time there was still talk of a visit to West Germany by Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader. When asked by a member of the audience about the prospects of the visit, Signor Andreotti replied: "All agreed that the two Germanies should

have good relations. This is a contribution to peace which no one underestimates."

"Be clear that there should be no exaggeration in this direction. Pan-Germanism is something which must be overcome. There are two German states and two German states must remain."

In Bonn Herr Hans Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister, told the Italian Ambassador that the remark had caused deep offence. Today will be the first time that the two heads of government have met since the incident. No doubt the official spokesmen are right in saying that neither side has any intention of reopening the matter as such. Nevertheless it will surely have to be touched on in some way, presumably in the time devoted to the survey of East-West relations.



Signor Andreotti: Storm after impromptu remark

Afghan children sent for 10-year Soviet schooling

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Nearly 1,000 Afghan children between the ages of seven and nine have been sent to Soviet Central Asia for 10 years of education. The Afghan media said it was a gesture of unqualified magnanimity by the Russians but Western diplomats here claimed it was "an attempt to employ heroic new methods to indoctrinate Afghan youth."

President Babrak Karmal's wife was at the airport to see the 870 children off. They will be the first batch of a number of similar groups to be sent to the Soviet Union.

Western diplomats were scornful of the shipping out of children, saying that in view of the public disdain of things Russian often expressed in Afghanistan, the authorities appear to have concluded that "nothing less than a decade of sovietization would make a dent on Afghan youth."

There are already several thousand young Afghans studying in the Soviet Union, but they are mostly of secondary school and university age. This is the first time children of primary school age have been sent out of the country on such a scale.

Meanwhile, diplomats here claimed that Soviet and Afghan troops summarily executed 450 Mujahidin guerrillas who had surrendered and handed over their arms after a battle in the mountains of north-western Afghanistan.

The sources said the massacre occurred early in October after government forces had overrun a rebel bastion. It is alleged that as soon as the local Soviet military commander ordered the 450 survivors to be executed on the spot. This was allegedly carried out by Afghan troops.

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THE ARTS

The 'golden oldies' of British cinema are descending in their hundreds upon New York, creating such a vogue that Jessie Matthews has been elevated to a state of 'semi-divinity': Geoff Brown reports

Lavish celebration of a glorious past

British cultural exports have long played a prominent part in New York's theatre scene, but now the city is witnessing another - and stranger - kind of British invasion.

A large picture of Alec Guinness in one of his *Kind Hearts and Coronets* roles (Lady Agatha d'Ascoyne, glaring frostily under a commanding hat) recently ate up the centre-page spread of the *Village Voice*; Jessie Matthews, in the same newspaper, was declared to be "semi-divine". And audiences here have been queuing to see the British cinema's golden oldies: *The Good Companions* (1933), with that same semi-divine Matthews, a chattering Max Miller and John Gielgud splendidly attired in a Pierrot costume; the sturdy northern drama *Hindle Wakes* (1931), in which Edmund Gwenn calls Sybil Thorndike "mother"; *The Rat* (1926), with Ivor Novello prancing through Paris dyes in pants that would be the envy of many a Greenwich Village boutique.

Such wonders have come about through the heartening advent of "British Film" - an enormous retrospective of some 300 features, showing at the Museum of Modern Art until early in 1986. The venture is co-directed by the Museum's Department of Film and our own National Film Archive, with funding from Pearson, Goldcrest Films and EMI. Both the MDA and the NFA celebrate their fiftieth birthdays in 1985, and there could be no better, or crazier, birthday present than this bulk presentation of British cinema, mostly using imported Archive prints. From March 8 next year, the Museum explores the various threads running through British film history (realism, music-hall, melodrama, the theatrical

adaptation); audiences will be subjected to everything from the 1913 *East Lynne* to the 1983 *Educating Rita*, from Anna Neagle's snowdrop charms to the fangs and garlic of Hammer horrors. At the moment, however, the spotlight is exclusively fixed on the producer Michael Balcon, and his pursuit of a national cinema through four decades of production; the Museum is showing 81 films, made between 1926 and 1963.

Balcon is an astute choice for such a grand Anglo-American celebration, though not entirely for the obvious reasons. At Ealing, of course, he championed films that drew their strength - and ultimately their vices - from a cosy conception of British life, from a world of corner shops, friendly coppers, privet hedges, timid emotions and nice cups of tea. Postwar Americans fell upon the eccentricities and mild anarchy of the Ealing comedies with as much glee as anyone, though in some cases the footage had to be tightened to suit the national pace. "The Americans are impatient by nature," wrote the Ealing editor, Michael Truman in 1949, after trimming *Passport to Pimlico*, "they are used to having their characters introduced quickly. It was thus entirely appropriate that Sir Alec Guinness was on hand to open the Museum's festivities and introduce screenings of *Kind Hearts and Coronets*, to the audiences it was as if some fabulous creature like Sanecho Panza or Lewis Carroll's White Knight had stepped down from the land of legend.

Yet there is more to Balcon's career than Ealing; and in earlier years he acted, like the other major British producers, as a reluctant apostle of transatlantic cinema. As production



The unknown - and remarkably erotic - Hitchcock of *The Pleasure Garden* (1926): later censors would have been shocked at the proximity of Miles Mander and Virginia Valli

chief of the Gaumont-British Picture Corporation, he signed up wagonloads of American stars, writers and directors to give his films a supposed advantage at the American box-office; he also dallied unhappily at the court of Louis B. Mayer and produced *A Yank at Oxford* - a film far more yank than Oxford. Balcon's "pursuit of British cinema" - as the film series and its accompanying publication is subtitled - certainly came about through natural inclination, but it also came about through sheer trial and error.

One can see the trials, errors and triumphs in the earliest film included in the Museum's Balcon cycle, *The Pleasure Garden*, made in 1926. On the surface nothing could be more cosmopolitan. The stars were American (Virginia Valli, Carmelita Geraghty), the cameraman was Italian (Baron Ventimiglia); studio work was accomplished in Munich, with locations at Genoa, San Remo and Lake Como. Yet, for all the multi-national ingredients, this melodramatic tale

about two chorus girls remains a film with a distinct, unified tone, and for that one must thank its young director, billed as "Alfred J. Hitchcock". This is Hitchcock's first film; screenings are not as rare as recent pronouncements by the American distributor Raymond Rohauer have indicated (the National Film Archive has held material since 1940), but it is still no commonplace item.

Hindsight helps us to identify specific Hitchcock traits: the delight in voyeurism, expressed in the faces of the male audience at the theatre (the pleasure garden of the title), gazing at chorus girls through monoculars and binoculars; the opening shot of the girls descending a circular staircase (one thinks of the spirals and staircases of *Vertigo*, of *Psycho*, and much else). For the knowing spectator, such details provide the icing on the cake; what makes the cake itself so nourishing is the film's cynical attitude towards romance and relish for the sleazy backstage life. A title card reads "What Every Chorus Girl

Knows": we then cut to a chorus girl laboriously washing thighs with a bar of Lux soap dancing attendance. Throughout, Hitchcock delights in pulling the rug from under us: after a shot of Carmelita Geraghty, the innocent girl who turns bad, kneeling in what seems to be impassioned prayer, we are shown a pet dog vigorously licking her bare feet. Later, Miles Mander, the film's luscious, bigamous villain, swims towards his Far Eastern wife. Ah yes, we think, a fond aquatic embrace: no, a drowning.

The preoccupation with sexual pleasure seems strange in a film produced by Michael Balcon, a man so circumspect in matters of the human body that he was capable, years later, of ordering a re-take to remove the offending word "GEN-TLEMAN" from a railway station location. Yet British film history is full of such surprises. New York audiences are going to experience many more before the massive orgy of "British Film" is over.

Television Familiar footsteps in the snow

No doubt it was a good idea, in *Terra Nova* (BBC1), to chart the course of Scott's last expedition to the South Pole: the problem was really one of dramatizing both that setting and the extremities to which it drove the Captain and his companions. It cannot be said that, on this level, last night's play was a success; where a radio drama, employing the resources of sound and voices only, might have worked, *Terra Nova* as a visual experience was awkward and often creaky.

The scenes at the Pole were of a Heath-Robinson absurdity, with the same piece of ice apparently being traversed again and again; at any minute one expected the flimsy scenery to fall down with a few short blasts from the wind-machine. Enter a bearded actor with the ice pasted to his face, saying "Lovely place for a picnic!" It was all very hearty and British but, compared with the polar epics which have appeared on the cinema screen, it had about as much resonance as a snowball thrown against a brick wall.

There were moments when the material itself had an intrinsic interest (it is impossible to watch such deaths without being moved), but this was in general a very wooden enterprise, with actors striding towards the camera and saying important things in very cinematic voices: "I feel like some ludicrous footnote to history," was one of Scott's immortal remarks. In fact this production had "BBC" written all over it, complete with the strident music and the "fantasy" sequences in which Scott and Amundsen confront each other: "Listen to me, English. Success is a bitch."

The script itself did not help matters, therefore, and was on occasions even embarrassing - especially since none of the actors seemed able to rise above it in a convincing manner. This was really an example of stiff-upper-lip melodrama, in which the hero is seen to be a real human being after all. One had the impression that one had seen it all before, and no doubt one had.

Peter Ackroyd

Concert Marble into sugar

Koenig Ensemble
St John's

The trouble with Milhaud is not just that he is a neglected composer but that his whole ambience is neglected. To understand him properly I suspect one would have to know a good bit of Koehlin (there is a good bit to know); it might also help to have some familiarity with the work of Maurice Emmanuel.

Monday night's concert by the Koenig Ensemble went some way in offering us Satie's *Socrate* as prelude to Milhaud's short opera *Les Malheurs d'Orphée*, but in a sense this was the least useful assistance. Satie, after all, is fairly well known, and his influence on Milhaud is pretty obvious: it was to be heard here in the quiet and plain modal ostinatos that preserve so much of both works on an even keel. Moreover, to hear Milhaud in terms of Satie is to suspect him merely of professionalizing Satie's simple-mindedness, perhaps not so much gilding the lily as brassplating the buttercup.

At the same time, to perform Satie in terms of Milhaud, as Jan Latham-Koenig seemed to be doing with his so attentive phrasing, is to turn the cold

square marble of *Socrate* into icing sugar.

Still, it was good to hear *The Sorrows of Orpheus*. Armand Lanel's libretto keeps little of the myth except the names: Orpheus is a village pharmacist and Eurydice a gypsy; she dies; her sisters come like the furies to round on him; and he dies.

Milhaud's music, for small resources, involves itself in the story only tepidly, and deliberately so: the opera is a sequence of very short numbers which the rhythmic monotony and the sweet-and-sour bionality assign to a tawny limbo. The vocal lines may sometimes be mildly emotional, the accompaniment not. Its cold gaze is fixed, as it seems, outwards, towards the Stavinsky of the *Soldier's Tale*, towards jazz and towards, presumably, all those unknown ghosts.

The performance was not ideal. The orchestra could hardly be expected to be at ease with Milhaud's style, and his bionality caused the singers problems of intonation. Still, Henry Herford made a lusty showing as Orpheus, and Rosemary Hardy moved with confidence from the role of dying Socrate to that of dying Eurydice.

Paul Griffiths

When I was a Girl, I used to Scream and Shout

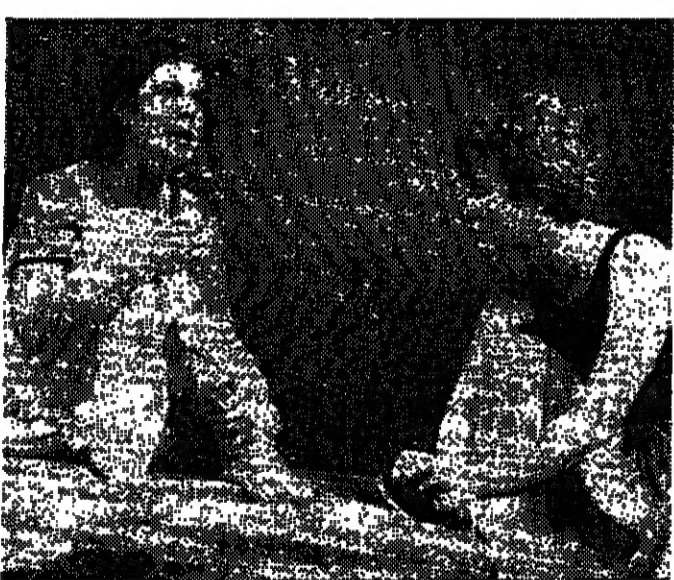
Bush

No London management has a sharper eye for brand-new writers than that of the Bush, and with the latest discovery, Sharman Macdonald, they have picked a real winner.

Her territory is childhood and adolescence, recalled with a comic precision equal to the early novels of Edna O'Brien and deftly presented in the perspective of adult memory. The setting of *When I was a Girl* is a Scottish beach where Morag has brought her unmarried daughter Fiona for a nostalgic weekend. Morag has some scores to settle with her disappointing child; but no sooner does she start voicing them than the figures of Fiona's memory take possession of the stage.

As in all good memory plays, the past emerges not in flashback but in a continuous psychological present, continually overlapping with immediate events. At one moment Morag is pouring out her complaints at being left alone with no grandchild; at the next, she is at young Fiona's bedside, threatening her with hellfire for "jiggling" under the blankets.

A powerfully Scottish blend of sexual fear and fascination runs through the whole play; nowhere more so than in the conspiratorial scenes between Fiona and her best friend, Varti, marvellously played by Eleanor David and Celia Imrie. Beginning with secret doctor's surgery games and ending in Fiona's



Celia Imrie (left) and Eleanor David conspiring marvellously in fear and fascination

carefully stage-managed deflowering, they show the girls moving from curiosity to desire and from swapping parental mumbo-jumbo to devouring books on the female orgasm. The two generations converge when the 15-year-old Fiona deliberately contrives a pregnancy so as to prevent her mother's remarriage.

Although everything builds towards this event, it never comes into dramatic focus. Partly this is because the time shifts leapfrog the crucial scene, which is only referred to in retrospect and in Fiona's wry narrative prayers to an Almighty who never moves a finger to help her. I think this is a miscalculation. But the real trouble is that the adult scenes

are under-imagined and sketchy. You never learn what happened to the child, or how Fiona has spent her life since leaving home; nor is it clear whether Morag (Sheila Reid) is to be seen as a character in her own right or as a distorted projection of her daughter's memories.

Simon Stokes's production firmly directs attention towards qualities more important than these loose ends: assisted by a post-blank seascape by Robin Don, and a solitary study in male bewilderment from John Gordon Sinclair, still wearing the face of adolescent turmoil he showed to the world in *Gregory's Girl*.

Irving Wardle

The Kitchen

Perth Rep

With their revival of Arnold Wesker's *The Kitchen*, Perth Rep have achieved something of a feat of strength. The play is rarely performed, demanding a competent body of at least thirty actors for it to hold water. Taking the idea that the world is a kitchen, and vice versa, Wesker sets out to present a microcosm below a busy restaurant, introducing a pageant of representative individuals whose numbers are essential to the two climates in the play.

The first is at the end of the first act, when the lunchtime rush has them running faster and faster, becoming like cogs in a machine that relentlessly drives on the daily drudge; the second comes at the end of the second act, when Something Happens to disrupt this routine momentarily, as the pressure it applies drives one young German cook to revolt.

It works very well as a spectacle; lively and busy, skilfully orchestrated under Joan Knight's direction to extract most of the comic potential. But, spirited and entertaining as this production is, the final climax does not quite come off. To escape being trite, the play has to convince us that the incredible sight of Peter running a canteen is all too credible, given what has gone before. Somehow it does not, and this has to do with the fact that the depth of the play does not match its breadth.

The accumulation of events conveys the petty, dreariness of life beneath the

comedy, but neither the pressures nor the characters seem to have enough substance, and the production does not have quite enough grit to get over this hurdle.

Again, having so many cooks, there is only time to dip in and out of their conversations and their characters. For the most part this does not matter; there are quick, convincing sketches of recognizable and funny figures, handled well by the cast to build up an atmosphere where repartee, friendship, jealousy and insular groups co-exist. But sometimes they wander too close to stereotype, and this detracts from the point

where the production really does gain an edge: when the world-weary pastry cook reveals his sad disillusion with an existence where people cannot see beyond their own concerns.

It is an accomplished production, full of humour and vivacity, handling the sizable staging problems with flair. Yet it does not quite overcome the feeling of insubstantiality - as Wesker maintains, he portrays the world as a kitchen rather than a stage; it nevertheless appears here to be a staged kitchen. The production runs until Saturday.

Sarah Hemming

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Galleries

Thirty-five Paintings
Agnew

Mysteries of the British Rail Pension Fund unveiled! Well, not quite, or not completely, for it is still difficult to come by information about exactly what else in the way of fine and decorative arts the Fund owns, but at least the show of *Thirty-five Paintings*, on at Agnew until December 14 in aid of the British Diabetic Association, is the first fair chance we have had to see at least a cross-section of the Fund's paintings all together and judge for ourselves.

The impression is at once striking and puzzling. Unmistakably the Fund has been very well advised in its purchases, since everything in sight is first-rate of its kind. But there are so many kinds, such a catholicity of apparent taste, that one cannot refrain from further speculation. Nearly all the paintings can in fact be seen individually, and often anonymously, on loan to major public collections throughout the country, so that such a formerly unfamiliar work as the *Land-scape with Pan and Syrinx* by Rubens and the elder Brueghel has been recently seizable at the National Gallery, and so on. But what kind of taste links this with, say, Maurice Denis's *Mlle Yvonne Lerolle en trois aspects* (on loan to the Tate) or Ben Marshall's *Alexandre Le Pellerin de Molimide* (on loan to Doncaster) or Leighton's *Dante in Exile* (on loan, suitably enough, to Leighton House)?

Nor, clearly, are all the choices of the safe, conventional type that any film star with enough money might make. True, there are the major Impressionists in force: Monet's radiant *Santa Maria della Salute*, two wonderful Degas drawings, Renoir's *La Promenade*. But there is also Raffaelli's splendid group of old men against a wall, *Les Vieux Officiers*, which can have been neither an obvious nor an expensive choice. And there are fine works by Hans Thoma (*Die Quelle*) and J. W. Waterhouse (*The Orange Gatherers*) which show even more enterprise for a collection the *raison d'être*, of which is basically investment. No one, surely, can fail to be enchanted by Van Dyck's sketch of the heads of Charles I's daughters Elizabeth and Anne or Giovanni Domenico Tiepolo's unfinished picture of *The Tiepolo Family*, but there are certainly enough other pieces which would not be to everyone's taste.

In all, then, a pleasant surprise, and a show which sets off at least as many hares as it catches. Apparently there is some very fine French furniture on anonymous loan to the Victoria and Albert, and important oriental bronzes elsewhere. Now that the edge of the veil has been lifted, it would be interesting to know what else is where, and get the full measure of this very extraordinary venture into art as investment.

John Russell Taylor

SPECTRUM



Derek Nimmo (left) has created a very successful business organizing actors to tour the Far East. But as Giles Gordon discovered on the road from Singapore, the farce on stage was often repeated in real life. How do you explain away a suitcase full of vicars' outfits?

But sometimes it wasn't terribly funny . . . there were the muddles, the fears and the odd questions from the inquisitive

Bedpans and bedlam in Kuala Lumpur

When actor Ian Oliver asked the waiter beside the swimming pool at the Regent Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, for a drink, he was asked: "You are Derek Nimmo company?" He agreed he was. The waiter flourishes a bill: "You are Derek Nimmo?" He decided he wasn't.

Another waiter asked Ian if there would be a further television series of *The Saint*. The actor assumed he had been mistaken for Ian Ogilvie. "Roger Moore was much better," said the waiter. Ian may look a little like Ian Ogilvie but he could hardly look less like Derek Nimmo. In the Far East, any actor may be Derek Nimmo.

Nimmo had the idea in 1979 of taking carefully chosen companies of British actors well known for their television work to the Middle and Far East and presenting them in first-class productions of funny plays, mostly farces.

The company of nine actors with which I spent six days watching the final two of eight performances on consecutive evenings in Singapore and the first of six in Kuala Lumpur - was the fourth to venture to these parts this year.

A few days before I arrived, Derek Nimmo, there for the beginning of the tour, summoned the actors to go on a visit to a local potentate. Harry Worth (the Rev Arthur Humphrey) said he would rather not and Derek tried to persuade him. "His palace is outstanding," said Derek.

"Have you seen the Taj Mahal?" asked Harry. "After seeing the Taj Mahal, there is no need to see other palaces. It is amazing," Derek was impressed and Harry was let off

the hook. Later, he confessed to the other actors that although he had seen the Taj it had been from a passing train. He was not one for sightseeing.

This time they presented Philip King's 1944 piece, *See How They Run*, a farce with a Nazi on the loose in the vicarage of Merton-cum-Middlewick. He holds up four men posing as vicars, plus the bishop, a vicar's wife and a maid.

At the climax one of the vicars makes him shriek, "Heil Hitler". As the Nazi's arm was thrust in the air, the vicar tickles him under the armpit and makes him drop his Luger, whereupon a military policeman arrests him.

To attract substantial audiences, they have to be the lightest of fare, the successes including *Move Over Mrs Markham*, *Blithe Spirit*, *No Sex, Please, We're British*, *The Grass Is Greener*, *Big Bad Mouse* and *Relatively Speaking*. *Side by Side by Sondheim* has been the only flop. Shakespeare comedies or anything more serious, are left to the British Council.

Props and fittings are brought from London but the sets for every venue are built locally on the stages of the ballrooms of the swishest hotels.

Photographs and plans are sent out to every hotel well in advance of the company's arrival, and the quietly lugubrious technical consultant and production manager, Stan Davies - flown in from his native Australia - travels ahead of the actors to every city by three or four days to supervise the building of the set.

Wood is cheap in the Far East, and the sets in Singapore

and Kuala Lumpur were sturdier than those in London. When any of the five doors - the staple ingredients of British as of French farce - was slammed shut or hurled open, which was frequently, nothing rocked or shook.

The company played, joyously, to appreciative audiences of locals and culture-starved expatriates - the locals understanding fewer of the jokes but drinking less at dinner and behaving better. British expats explained, for instance, to Chinese and Malays what "suffragette" meant, and smiles of recognition graced oriental visages long after the lines had disappeared.

Simon Williams (Lancaster House) looked through the peephole in the scenery and appraised the audience. "If they catch your eye, you're lost. But look at the natives, absorbing culture."

All luggage had to be outside the rooms of the Singapore Hilton by 6am for transporting to the railway station, some members of the company, including Harry Worth had been up so late the night before that they had not gone to bed. The curtain came down just before 11.30pm and most of the cast would then eat in the hotel's coffee shop, followed by a drink or two.

The younger members of the company might dance with young local girls and chat away the early hours with young 64-year-old Harry Worth. The night before leaving Singapore, Paula Wilcox (Penelope) took her boyfriend Steve, who had just arrived from England, to view the transvestite paradise of Bugis Street, which did not



See how they ran: From top, Harry Worth, Simon Williams, John Barrow, Michael Knowles and Ian Oliver

properly - or improperly - get going until 2.30am.

Dominic Atwood, the young company stage manager, had asked everyone to be ready to depart from the hotel lobby by 6.30am. "This is like a film call," said Michael Knowles (the Rev Lionel Toop).

Nimmo's limos, as they were christened, drove to the station at high speed, the morning already sweatily hot. Crocodiles

of silent schoolboys in white T-shirts, shorts, socks and shoes glided by, picking their way purposefully to school through Singapore's greenery and high-rise buildings.

At the station, dozens of pieces of luggage were heaped on to trolleys, and pushed towards the customs. Cases contained the actors' personal belongings, the production's costumes and the props: ant-manicures, telephone, bicycle basket, with gloves, pair of scissors, pictures from the walls of the vicarage, army sergeant's helmet, two rubber hotwater bottles, bottle of smelling salts, *Playboy* magazine, wallet with 10s note, cuckoo clock, bicycle pump and inner tube, gas mask, handbag, two warming pans.

The form filling and checking had taken time and a voice on the Tannoy announced that the Singapore-Kuala Lumpur express was about to leave on its seven-hour journey.

Dominic was not allowed on to the platform as he was travelling later that morning, by aeroplane, the only way by which the play's essential imitation Luger pistol could safely be transported. Even so,

he was seriously worried at the possibility of being found carrying a gun in this part of the world which could result in alarming consequences, such as being hanged.

"Is this your luggage?" a customs officer asked Simon, who happened to be standing amid great piles of suitcases. "Yes", he said cautiously, in his Old Harrovian accent. "I suppose it is."

"What's in it?" asked the official. "Clothes, mostly," replied Simon. "Open, that one," said the official, pointing at a particular case. Simon did so, and four vicars' outfits including dog collars were exposed. The official quickly closed the case and chalked a cross on his side, and on all the other cases.

There was the most extraordinary chaos as the actors endeavoured to convey the luggage from platform to train, and to find a lodging place for it all in the luggage racks at the end of every carriage or above the seats, already most of the space was taken.

Charmian May (Miss Skillion) and Lucy Fleming and her sons carried as many cases as they could and walked along the platform, in search of the carriage.

"I am determined to pass along the platform carrying the bedpans," said Simon, and did so to the bemusement of the guard. The rubber top of one pan was coming loose; clearly Ian had been hitting his vicars in their heads too hard.

Ian noticed, amid the mêlée and away down the platform, a large bell which he took to be that of Merton-cum-Middlewick church, a prop which plays a crucial part in the play.

"Is that our bell?" explained Simon to the guard. "Ah, the bell," said the guard. He walked up to it, struck it sharply and the train slid out half a minute before its scheduled departure time of 7.30am.

Ian only just pulled himself and the last of the luggage on to the end of the train. John Barrow (the Bishop of Lax), Bob Blythe, (Sergeant Towers) Michael and Harry walked back through the train from their seats near the front to help Ian. Malaysian faces looked quite unimpressed and piped Malaysian pop songs blared hideously through the train.

Eventually the luggage was stowed but every time the train stopped at a station actors would leap up and check that nothing was removed.

Worse was to follow: a video screen had been placed at the end of the compartment. With ludicrously loud sound-track, a Chinese version of *Superman* was shown, then a story about Atlantis. There was no escaping the high decibel level throughout the journey. Ray Cooney's advice to the actors came to mind: "When playing farce, make as much noise as possible."

The train arrived at Kuala Lumpur 10 minutes early, an event apparently previously unrecorded in the history of the line. The assistance of porters was enlisted, most of them half the size of the suitcases. The luggage, once more, was heaped on to trolleys. Simon refused to give up the bedpans.

"We are being met," John kept repeating. "Yes, taxis," a porter kept replying as the trolleys were pushed down the long platform, now otherwise deserted.

Everyone was mildly surprised - but in this part of the world nothing really surprises - to discover that the way out of the station was across two sets of railway lines and through what looked like a black gate.

All ten of the trolleys lurched and wobbled and stuck on the rails but eventually were over and out of the gates where



Unholy arm lock: Simon Williams with Paula Wilcox

a dozen or so taxi drivers crowded around offering their small yellow cabs with open boots.

The porters hung about, waiting to be paid. Only our correspondent had Malaysian money. No Dominic. The company should have been met by limousines and a minibus for the luggage.

"Regent Hotel has no minibuses," insisted the swarthy, moustachioed leader of the taxi drivers. It was assumed that Dominic's plane had been delayed, although it should have arrived hours ago.

"How much the hotel?" "Ten dollars each taxi." The taxis had diminutive boots and thus more and more cars were needed to accommodate the luggage. Actors and actresses tried to cram particular cases

bus had not materialized. At the Regent, Dominic handed the first driver \$20. "That is for all of you."

"Yes, now give the other two \$20." The company manager looked as if he would burst into tears.

The actors checked in. Bob felt miserable and insecure as there was no reservation for him. The hotel's publicity manager, greeted the company. "You're late for your press conference."

A press conference had not previously been mentioned to the worn-out actors. "Are you Mr Williams or Mr Worth?" a journalist asked the lowering, youthful Simon. Harry was unpopular for insisting on going to his room first and having a shower. He was interviewed for a woman's monthly.

"Mr Worth, have you ever wanted to try tragedy?" "Can't say I have but there are some moving bits in *Harvey*, that play about the man with the rabbit." (Afterwards, he said: "She'll probably print that I'm desperate to play King Lear.")

The journalist ploughed courteously on. "For your jokes, Mr Worth, do you observe people?"

He mentioned that - "oh, a few years ago" - he had worked with Laurel and Hardy. The journalist thought she had heard of them. Another reporter asked him where he had met his wife. "In pantomime," said Harry.

"What is pantomime?" Gently, Harry explained. "Like a fairy story, Mr Worth." "Well, sort of," said Harry, adding that his wife-to-be had been principal boy. The reporter was triumphant. "Then you, Mr Worth, were principal girl?"

Bob told me how once he had been travelling in a train with a man who wouldn't stop chatting to him. Inevitably, he asked, "What do you do for a living?" Bob could not face having to answer all the usual questions, especially, "How do you remember your lines?"

"I'm a plumber," confided Bob. "So am I!" replied the delighted man.

That night, in the hotel's superb Suasa restaurant, some of the actors had the only relaxed and leisurely meal they would have that week as there was not a performance. There was great pleasure all round when the head waiter recommended the chocolate marquis. "Derek Nimmo himself has it."

They played to appreciative audiences of locals and culture-starved expatriates, the locals understanding fewer of the jokes but drinking less at dinner and prepared to watch English actors being hit over the head with bedpans.

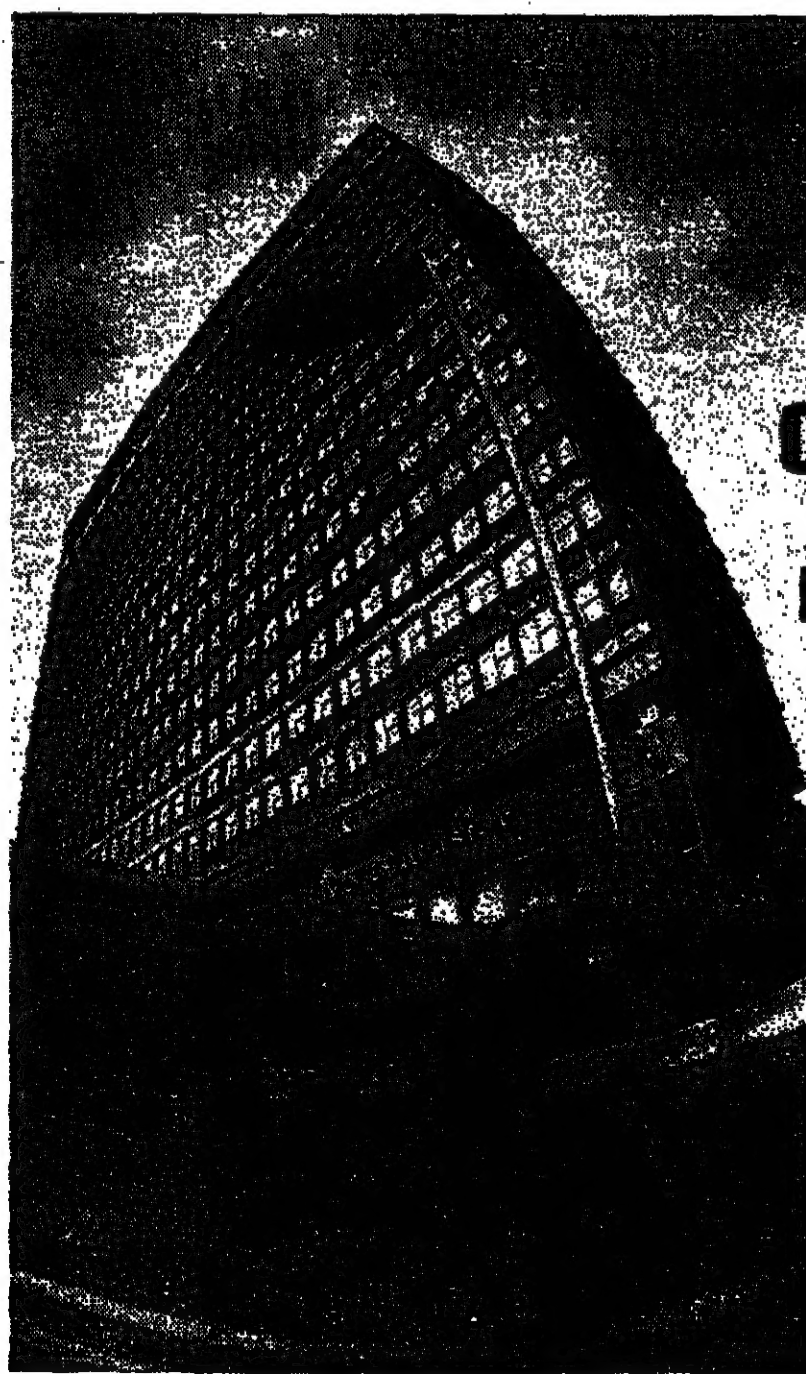
into particular boots, the whole business proving complicated, even farcical, in the tropical temperature.

"There's no hurry, no rush," insisted the equable Harry.

Eventually the boots were slammed shut, and they all began to organize themselves into the cars. Whereupon the bewildered figure of Dominic appeared. He had arrived at the station at 2.30pm when the train was due, expecting to wait for up to six hours as Stan Davies, who was supervising the building of the set at the hotel, had once had to do. He had been waiting at the front of the station, with the limousines.

The taxi drivers had to be paid off. "Ten dollars each taxi," repeated the ringleader of the little coup that had captured the actors. Dominic gave them three dollars each.

Reluctantly, most opened their packed boots and luggage was cumbersome removed. Three cars stuffed with luggage, drove to the hotel as the mini-



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Right of reply for the homegrown card

moreover . . . Miles Kington

The other day I was heaping praise on the standard of Greek postcards, and wondering why the British didn't produce anything as good. The result was as I had half-hoped: readers wrote reproachfully to me from all over Britain, enclosing exceedingly good postcards, and I am now stocked up for the foreseeable future. But having studied this generous selection closely, I am now in a position to make a few interesting points.

The first is that, just as the best Greek ones all came from the islands, the best British ones seem to come from far outside London, especially, Scotland and Ireland. There is a quite good series of London cards produced by a firm called Real London, in High Street, Kensington, but most London cards are still simultaneously glossy and tawny, and there is a terrible dearth of local London scenes. If you were a tourist staying in Notting Hill and you wanted to show the folks back home in Munich or Milan what the nice bits of Notting Hill looked like, you'd have to draw them yourself.

It was not always so. About eight years ago my local newspaper suddenly sprouted an unexpected range of postcards of the Barnes area, with heroic titles like "Barnes Common at Midday", "The Pond, Barnes" and "People Shopping in Barnes". As I live nowhere near Barnes I asked the newspaper why he had decided to specialize in views of that area. "Not my choice, mate," he said. "Our Barnes branch has gone bust, and we've been told to flog off their stock."

Secondly, the best results seem to come about when one photographer decides to, or is asked to, chance his arm. Chris Andrews of Oxford has sent me a huge packet of the postcards he publishes himself of that fair city, and very fine they are, full of golden hazy sunshine, honeyed walls and creeping shadows. What is mostly missing is people, as if Mr Andrews gets up very early or stays up very late, before and after everyone else is around. The Cheltenham Museum people have commissioned a nice quirky range of cards from Mike Colecott and Trevor Jones, full of forgotten corners of Cheltenham or odd notices of East Anglia also received several votes from readers (I liked their postcard of a stack of empty punts) but the man who came out best on sheer volume of support was Colin Baxter of Edinburgh, who publishes his own range called "Just Edinburgh", although he also gets out into the hills. My favourite among the Baxters I've seen is "New Town Doorway", a close-up of stone, railings and doorway. What makes the photo for me is the flower tub containing some very healthy wallflowers and one very dead daffodil like passenger filling overboard. A lesser photographer would have trimmed that out before taking the picture.

Another good Scottish series (thank you, Donia Maclean) is called *Gaidhealtachd*, which I expect means something interesting, published by Skyteight Prints. They seem to specialize in views of the Scottish landscape which show that it

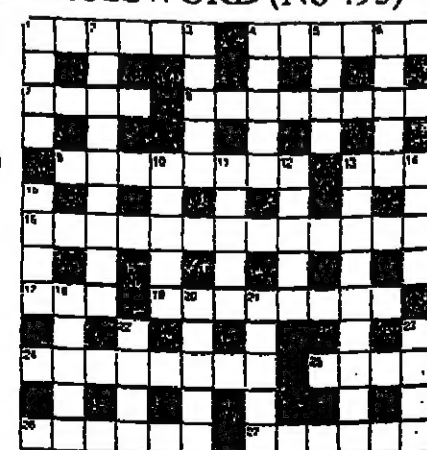
isn't just a romantic place full of ruined castles: it is also a bleak and rough place full of ruined crofts. Most postcards, of course, aren't too bleak on the reasonable grounds that nobody would buy them.

What seems to work best is a judicious mixture of rough edges and smooth art. One of the Images of East Anglia cards, for instance, sent to me by Peter Sealy, is captioned "Church Window, Essex". It is a close-up of the window-ledge, with three fire on pretty pictures of bicycles?

Rosemary Bashford reports some superb postcards on sale in Normandy and Brittany, while Peter Stokoe says defiantly that the whole move towards good postcards started years ago, a superb series called Real Ireland, full of pubs, shops, pubs, fields, pubs, priests and pubs. And bicycles. This is the other strange point to emerge - every series of postcards now contains more than its fair share of bicycles. I am as pro-bike as the next man, but could we soon have a cease-fire on pretty pictures of bicycles?

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 495)

- ACROSS
1 Egyptian beetle (6)
4 Marriage partner (6)
7 Legend (4)
8 Headbands (5)
9 Prize (8)
13 Semisolid food (3)
16 Glamour event (6,7)
17 Golf ball support (3)
19 Family servant (5)
24 Ghastly (8)
25 Protest rally (4)
26 Goad (6)
27 Foot softly (6)



- DOWN
1 About (4)
2 Interchange (9)
3 Jujuans (5)
4 Spanish male (5)
5 Allomere's contest (4)
6 Steam bath (5)
10 Behind (5)
11 Not abridged (5)
12 Boredom (5)
13 Criterion (9)
14 Meal spread (4)
15 Adjoin (4)

- 18 Ghostly (5)
20 Overcast (5)
21 Turn aside (5)
22 Feet (4)
23 Stockings (4)

SOLUTION TO No 494

- ACROSS: 1 Tarmac 5 Pose 8 Usher 9 Normans 11 Reconnect 13 Finn 15 Conservatoire 17 Land 18 Unsettled 21 Marina 22 Boring 23 Sid 24 Niggle
DOWN: 2 Abhor 3 Mar 4 Contravention 5 Pore 6 Swahili 7 Curriculum 10 Stonehenge 12 Chew 14 Syc 16 Neutral 19 Trail 20 Bird 22 Bug

مكتبة الأمل

Latin Lib but little freedom



EUROPEAN
WOMEN
Part 2

Caroline Moorehead continues
the series on the equality
of women in Europe, with
a look at the revolution
in Italy that should have
liberated women, but
ironically has not

Not long ago a trial of Mafia suspects opened in Palermo in Sicily. Among those accused were a small number of women. No sooner had the court assembled than the judge dismissed the case against them on the ground that, by definition, no woman could be a Mafia boss.

There was, doubtless, relief among those standing in the dock. But in the rest of Italy, there was indignation. Wasn't this, exclaimed women up and down the country, a case of blatant sexual discrimination?

Stories like this, redolent of comic opera, suggest that as far as the position of women is concerned, Italy is still living in an earlier age. Even if the election results last summer showed that the impressive parliamentary gains made by women in the 1970s were continuing to hold, the divide between paper and reality — between the law and how people use it — is immense, and possibly growing wider.

In the Senate, 15 out of the 315 Senators today are women, two more than at the 1979 elections. But in the Chamber of Deputies, the number has gone down from 52 out of 630 to 48. In a country dominated by a church pushing hard for a return to traditional family life, the results were not discouraging. But individual parties, like the Communists, with 134 women candidates, and the Radicals, who had both been promoting women's issues, expressed considerable disappointment that they had not made substantial gains. Compared with other European parliaments, however, the figures are not to be ridiculed: at the British 1983 election 23 women, the same number as before, out of 650, were returned to the House of Commons.

The 1970s were a golden age for Italian women, at least as far as the law was concerned. Fifty years of discriminatory legislation (Italy had not even got the vote until 1946, could not join the police force until 1959 or the foreign service until 1961, and until 1969 an adulterous woman risked a year in prison, but a man nothing at all) was replaced at some speed by a series of very liberal measures.

Some, like the right to divorce (1970) and abortion — passed in 1975 after it was revealed that a million illegal abortions were being carried out each year — were achieved only after intensive and passionate lobbying. Others, like the reforms of the family (1976) made their way through with scarcely a fight.

Today, as of right, an Italian woman whose marriage ends in divorce can claim half her husband's money, including half his factory if he happens to own one; she is eligible for any job (there is no sex discrimination except night shifts and work deemed dangerous); and she can take five months' maternity leave, on full pay, to be followed, if she wishes, by a full year of part-time work.

Where a child is ill, a woman can take time off until its third birthday and still retain her job. Although she is unpaid, both the State and her union make up some measure of her salary. "We are among the most progressive European countries as regards the law for women," says Anna Rondini, a teacher with three young children. "The years 1970 to 1977 were wonderful."

Campaigning for these acts of Parliament was an active women's movement. Like its European counterparts, it took its cue from America, but it developed its own, particularly Italian, flavour. The left of centre Republican party claims the credit for launching the movement in Italy when it organized a series of eight weekly seminars on the liberation of women in 1970, attended by teachers, sociologists, politicians and trade unionists. They drew up a draft for a women's manifesto and circulated it to some 200,000 women.

Individual women's groups, seemingly more politicized and more fragmented in Italy than elsewhere, sprang up around the country, both to do battle on behalf of whatever bit of legislation was waiting in the wings, and to keep pressing for new campaigns.

"Generals without armies," these groups were sometimes called by the press. There was the Roman Movimento di Liberazione della Donna, federated to the Radical party, the Marxist Fronte Italiano di Liberazione femminile and the Lotta Femminista, born in Padova in 1974 as a campaign to win wages for housewives. Since the end of the 1970s, the political spirit of these groups has diminished, though a number of young women did move over into the masculine world of the terrorist groups; there they have achieved notoriety as killers in their own right.

Now that the main legal battles are done, some of the others have turned to founding consciousness-raising groups, for, as the spokeswoman for the Unione delle Donne Italiane put it, "every specific point of oppression, whether in the theatre, in factories or in



CARLA RAVAGLIOLI is a well-known author of a number of books on women and has been a Communist Senator for many years.

"We are absolutely determined to oppose the Christian Democrats' policy of pushing women back into the home by saying that all the permissiveness of the Seventies and the drug-taking is due to the fact that women went out to work. We, the Communist Party, have two measures we intend to get through. We want to set up a permanent organization in both houses to examine every law from the woman's point of view, and we want a women's commission to form links with other European countries."

education". These women gather in meetings, but few of the groups now have offices or regular addresses.

More interestingly perhaps, a considerable number of women have adopted more pragmatic goals. Anna Rondini says: "There came a moment when a lot of us — the class of '68, as we call ourselves — said: 'Enough of this solidarity between women. The time has come to move on. We must become professional.'"

In Rome, a thousand women teachers, doctors, journalists and lawyers have founded Progetto Donna, an organization designed to encourage women to go for more demanding jobs in universities and in

industry. But by the late 1970s, it was estimated that fewer than 20,000 Italian women were running their own businesses or had "executive positions" and even these were almost always in fashion or cosmetics. Women like Franca Tomellini Fazio, the shipowner, remain rare.

In Milan, Donna In Camera, a similar body with a slant towards psychoanalysis, has recently been launched, while in Rome an Italian university for women and women's studies has just completed its second academic year.

With the laws on abortion and divorce ratified, some women have switched their energy to a revision of the law on rape, or, as it is called,

"violenza sessuale". A recent survey conducted by the women's movement showed that 12 per cent of rapes were by husbands, 8 per cent by boyfriends, 2 per cent by fathers, 2 per cent by brothers and 5 per cent by other male relatives.

Rape is now punishable by a prison sentence of three to 10 years, but husbands cannot be taken to court and only the victim can bring charges against a rapist.

A petition calling for more severe sentences and the right of the police to bring charges was signed last year by some 400,000 supporters. But the proposed revisions are having a bumpy ride, with different political parties supporting different amendments.

While the Communists are backing the proposal of the Movimento della Liberazione della Donna that husbands should be taken to court, the Radicals take the line that once you remove the sole right of prosecution from the woman then, as Emma Bonino, a Radical deputy, put it: "You suggest once again that they are too weak to act for themselves."

Not surprisingly perhaps, given that the campaigns to improve the condition of life for women in Italy have been fought mainly in Parliament, the last decade has seen the arrival there of an impressive number of highly educated and not easily intimidated women, mainly of the Left (of the '48



EMMA BONINO, who was a teacher of French when she entered Parliament in 1976 at the age of 26, rose to lead the Radicals in the Chamber of Deputies and is now a European MP.

Each party, except ours and the Liberals, nominates a woman to lead a woman's section. The moment for that should have passed. We should now be debating the big issues of life — nuclear politics, the economy — and no longer be sidetracked down minor paths. Birth control is a question of culture and tradition. Contraception is now theoretically legal, but relatively few women use it. Why? Because there is no structure and no process of education to make it work."

deputies, 38 are members of the Communist Party). Many continue to champion women's issues.

Other women politicians take a scornful view of all moves to isolate women's issues from the mainstream of politics.

But if the laws are all there, why do so few Italian women play a significant part in the life of the country?

"It's perfectly simple," says Anna Rondini. "The laws are indeed there, but just as they came on the books, the state of the economy changed. In a climate of recession, who is going to implement them? Young women today are too worried about getting a job at all to insist on their full rights."

In theory, the law is indeed in tune with an Italy in which marriages are decreasing at the rate of some 7,000 a year and in which the number of families with three children has halved in the last 15 years. It is the practice that looks increasingly dim. Changes in education and attitudes have affected Italy no less than northern Europe. But whereas in other countries the response has been to provide day-care facilities, medical centres and programmes of education — that is to say, implement the laws — no such response has been forthcoming in Italy.

On Friday
The fight for equal
rights in West Germany

ALAN FRANKS' DIARY



Famine, the food for do-gooders

I had been intending to record something funny about philanthropy in suburbia this week, but somehow the jokes seem to stick in my biro. There are few situations which are too far gone for humour, but I fear Ethiopia is one of them. It is true that, Bobby Marshall, the community conscience, is bang in the middle of her element, the welfare of other people's children has always been her pet concern, and here is a great grim glut of them, piped nightly into our lounges of plenty. Schemes, functions, evenings, raffish walks, sales — all the good notions of the Caring Lady — are fairly spinning off her like matter from a centrifuge. The yellow beacon of her bedroom light shines long into the indifferent night, and it is surely only a matter of time before she or the new Xerox gives out.

It is also true that my horrible lawyer friend Parvis Maitland has found himself a central role in this upsurge of compassion. Last night he was presiding over an Auction for Ethiopia in the local church. As we have seen before — particularly on PTA occasions — he has an infallible nose for the true location of power. There he stood with his great secular hulk framed against the reredos, intoning the lots and the rising bids as though he were leading a prayer and response. It is frightful — yes, and perhaps just laughable — how the act of sudden charity can put a glow of piety on to the most unlikely features. I swear that as the money rolled in and it really did roll — for all manner of clutter and cast-offs which normally go for a song in the Nearly New shop, Parvis believed it was his auctioneering skills, rather than the spectre of babies born straight into death, that was causing the inflation.

Tonight he stars again. Same time, same place. Poetry for Ethiopia say the handbills in the off-licence window (Maitland is so easily their best customer that they have just about papered the entire shop front over with leaflets, obscuring the new lure of Christmas stock. Sharing the stage, or rather altar, with him, is the unlikely figure of Bobby Marshall. For three quid we get a glass of mulled wine and some bits of Kipling and Hopkins. It is also rumoured that Maitland will be doing readings from Donne; the sermons, for heaven's sake, not the profane stuff. I do believe he is on the verge of acquiring religion. This is hardly a Burton and Taylor double act, more a sort of travesty of Robert Morley and Joyce Grenfell. There is something horribly mock-heroic about the notion of two such non-performers commanding

full houses at the click of a finger. But why should I be so cynical about do-gooders? (A loaded term, I know, but Bobby Marshall definitely is one). As my Oxfam friend so rightly says, the alternative to doing something is doing nothing, and the merits of the second course are indeed hard to advance. For him my admiration is boundless. He is the real thing; he actually goes to these Manfrotto places like Tigre and the Sahel, and has been predicting this very disaster (I don't mean the poetry, reading) for years. Only now that it has acquired First Division status through the camera, does anyone stop listening to him. Maitland, of course, does more than listen. He has actually stolen, yes, but in some of the arguments in Oxfam's Hungry for Change literature, and has been spouting them to alarmed listeners in the Waterman's Arms. Good for ticket sales, I suppose.

And all the while, the two-month season of Christmas is poised, like a great landship above a village. What I fear, and what my Oxfam friend knows from bitter experience, is that when it makes its engulfing descent and when local in the desert finally loses its peak-boom appeal, then the emotional shelf-life (what a horribly American phrase) of Ethiopia will be over and the world will return to normal.

The new family of declassé aristocrats who recently moved into Orchard Road is unimpressed by this wave of charity. The other day in the Waterman's Arms the father got into a colossal row with the Street Radical, saying that he should look after Number One (meaning England) before we meddled in the affairs of other nations. He was joined by a pair of early Santas who had just finished their shifts at the local department store and who, after several schooners of Bristol Cream, were advancing the case for the abolition of children. (I all got rather ugly, with the Radical accusing them of quickening the trade in toy weapons, thus abetting the arms race in the long term and ensuring the further dispossession of the poor. He then rounded on the aristocrat father of seven, and told him he was being most un-Christian. "So what?" came the reply. "Well, you're a Catholic, aren't you?" said the Radical. "In practice, yes," said the other. "But in theory, no." Massive guffaws from the Santas, by now as red as Rudolph's nose.

Real Life With Small Children Underfoot, a collection of Alan Franks' columns, is published by J. M. Dent (£5.95).

Ginger up your store cupboard with chutney

The squirrels of my acquaintance have an insatiable appetite for acorns and spend hours tucking them into hidey holes and digging them up again. They skip and bustle about, storing autumn's nuts against winter's hunger, then forget where they have buried them.

Putting something by is an instinct that we have not lost either. It may be that the urge to squirrel away some portion of summer's fruit satisfies needs which are now emotional as much as practical. Preparing a freezer full of neatly labelled fruit and vegetables, good and useful though they will be, cannot compete with the gratification of making traditional preserves — pungent chutneys, jars of jewel-like jelly, ketchups and ratatouille.

Fresh green ginger is an

excellent ingredient in chutneys of all kinds. It is not a commodity to which most of our grandmothers had access, so free to adapt favourite old recipes. Pumpkin is another good thing to put in chutney. It does not have much taste of its own, but it mops up all the other flavours. Surprisingly perhaps, it does not disintegrate into a mush in chutney. Because the sugar is added at the beginning of cooking the chunks of raw pumpkin absorb it right from the start and this helps to keep the pieces whole.

Pumpkin and green ginger chutney
Makes about 1.5 kilos (3 1/2 lb)
300g (2lb) pumpkin, seeded and cut in large dice
450g (1lb) onions, roughly chopped



Shona Crawford Poole

225g (8oz) cooking apple, peeled and sliced
110g (4oz) sukutadas
5 cloves garlic, peeled and thickly sliced
55g (2oz) fresh green ginger, peeled and thinly sliced

680g (1 1/2 lb) golden, granulated sugar, or demerara
750ml (1 1/2 pints) dark malt vinegar
2 tablespoons salt
1 tablespoon cayenne pepper

Make sure that the jars, whether new or recycled, are very thoroughly washed and dried. Before filling, heat them in a very cool oven (110°C/225°F, gas mark 1/4) for 15 minutes.

Put all the chutney ingredients into a large brass, stainless steel or enamelled pan — preferably a wide preserving pan — and mix them well.

Bring the mixture slowly to the boil then cook it steadily, but quite gently, for about 45 minutes, or until it has reached the consistency you like for chutney.

As the mixture thickens and cools down, stir it often to stop it catching.

Pour the chutney into the prepared jars. Top with a disc of waxed paper and seal the jars with corrosion-resistant covers.

Home-made honey nougat, densely packed with fresh toasted nuts, is a two-man, woman or child job unless you have an electric whisk to cope with the beating stage.

As well as elbow grease, you will need a couple of sheets of rice paper, a board to weigh down the nougat as it sets, and some weights. Edible rice paper can be found in stationers, supermarkets and specialist cooks' shops.

Honey hazelnut nougat
Makes about 570g (1 1/4 lb)
225g (8oz) shelled hazelnuts
175ml (6 fl oz) honey
225g (8oz) granulated sugar
6 tablespoons water
1 egg white, stiffly beaten

To bring out the flavour of the hazelnuts and to skin them easily, spread them on a baking sheet and roast them in a preheated moderate oven (160°C/325°F, gas mark 3) for

about 15 minutes or until the centres are a pale biscuit colour. Cool the nuts a little then tip them on to a clean, dry cloth and rub off the skins. Halve or coarsely chop the nuts and keep them warm until needed.

Measure the honey into a jug and set it in a bowl of hot water to warm.

Put the sugar and water in a saucepan and cook it on a low heat until the sugar has dissolved completely. Then without stirring it, cook the syrup to the soft crack stage (138°C/280°F): a sample of the syrup dropped into iced water can be pulled into a firm but still malleable strand.

Add the honey, stir it in, then continue cooking until the temperature rises to soft crack again. Immediately remove the pan from the heat.

Now pour the syrup slowly into the stiffly beaten egg white, whisking constantly until the foam begins to thicken, then becomes stiff. To make it stiffen well it may be necessary to stand the bowl over a pan of boiling water and whisk it over this additional heat.

Fold in the warm nuts and spoon the nougat on to a baking sheet lined with rice paper. Spread it to a depth of about 1.25cm (1/2 inch) and top it with another sheet of rice paper. Weight it well with books, tins or bricks and leave it overnight to set.

Next day, use a large, heavy knife to cut the nougat into bars or squares. Nougat keeps well for several weeks if it is stored in an airtight container.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Name of the game

The Southgate by-election caused by Sir Anthony Berry's death in the Brighton bombing looks set to be "business as usual" - despite early protestations to the contrary. Following reports yesterday that the Government may call the election as early as December 13, I learn that the probable date of Sir Anthony's memorial service is December 11 - meaning that tributes to the late Tory member would be carried in cave-of-poll papers. Local Tories certainly have no compunction in using Sir Anthony's name to boost their cause. They have just issued a leaflet with Mrs Thatcher's tribute to him on the front, and on the back his "last message" to the constituency supporting GLC abolition. A Southgate Labour Party leaflet, equally tasteless, front page article condemns NHS cuts with a cartoon of a bloodied, bandaged one-legged man being rejected by a hospital that only takes "emergencies". Local Liberals and Labour are at least leaving a decent interval before selecting candidates: by contrast, the Conservatives already have a shortlist, having bypassed the normal procedure whereby Central Office circulates approved list candidates and invites them to apply. At least they had the decency to reject the hopeful who submitted an application within five days of Sir Anthony's death.

Long shot

Cornish businessman Colin Prior was hopping mad when he read an interview which he purportedly gave to *The Sunday Independent*. In fact, that he has sent a complaint to the Press Council claiming the piece is pure fabrication. *The Sunday Independent* emphatically denies the allegation, but it is certainly the case that Prior does not readily give interviews. Devon and Cornwall police have been waiting to ask him questions about a £3m fraud since September. They can't - because he and an associate, Cornish solicitor James Double, are both living in Ibiza, a Spanish territory which has no extradition treaty with Britain.

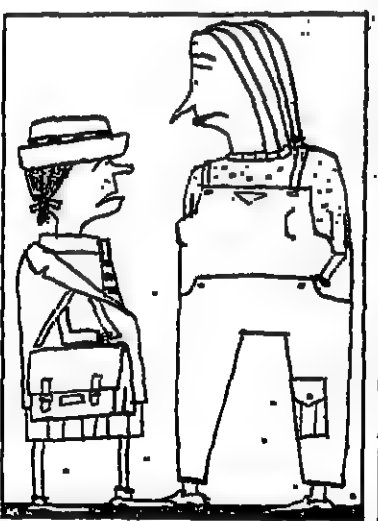
Clive alive

Television producers are queuing up to turn Clive Ponting, the civil servant alleged to have leaked Belgrano documents, into a star. Ponting's solicitor, Brian Raymond, says he has been approached "by every current affairs programme you have ever heard of and some you haven't" to sign up Ponting for a post-trial exclusive. Ponting, who will not be accepting a fee, has yet to decide which, if any, offer to accept. The waiting is particularly harrowing for *Panorama*, desperate for the story after having been scooped by *World in Action* for Sarah Tisdall's tale of woe.

Guam with you

Tory MP Piers Merchant, one of 12 MPs who showed the Miss World contestants around the Commons on Monday, was slipped a message on the back of a menu during lunch by Miss Guam. "It's truly been a delight," it said. "This day will for ever be remembered. May happiness and success be yours for ever."

BARRY FANTONI



"Today we had maths, English and sexual discrimination"

Travel papers

When the Civil Aviation Authority considers Randolph Fields' licence application for a proposed Highland Express airline, it will find his recent record in other areas makes interesting reading. Co-founder of Virgin Airways with Richard Branson, Fields is a lawyer and head of chambers in Grays Inn. On October 5 two fellow barristers, two pupils and two clerks - the bulk of the chambers - left because they did not like the way he mixed high-flying commercial with legal practice. Last Friday Fields took the extraordinary step of obtaining an *ex parte* order authorizing the seizure - over the weekend - of client papers that the barristers took with them, claiming that they were part of research he and his company were doing for American clients. Fields was not satisfied with what was recovered on Monday he sought - unsuccessfully - to have the order extended to cover a fourth set of premises. Yesterday in the Court of Appeal, counsel for the barristers accused Fields of failing to disclose material information in obtaining the seizure order, and of now having access to papers he has no right to. The case was adjourned until today.

PHS

Wrecking? It's really a rescue

Next April the rates of 18 English local authorities will be limited by law. This fulfils the Conservative manifesto commitment to give relief to the hard-pressed ratepayers of the highest spending authorities. One might well ask why the Government has taken on such a mighty establishment as local government. Why should we care what local authorities - locally elected bodies with their own local taxation system - get up to? Why can't we let them get on with it by themselves?

No government can be indifferent to the spending of local authorities. The UK as a whole the central exchequer provides them with about £14.5bn in grants, which have to be allocated as fairly as possible. They spend almost £33bn a year - one quarter of all public expenditure. Local authorities who take more than their share are in effect hijacking funds from other worthwhile programmes and projects. No government can tolerate such piracy.

During the 1960s and '70s there was not too much trouble between local and central government because public expenditure generally rose steadily, during this period local authority expenditure rose on average by 3% per cent in real terms. Since 1979 the main thrust of our economic policy has been to restrain public expenditure. Local authorities have found it more difficult to meet the Government's targets despite the efforts of many individuals and councils to make economies. A small minority have disregarded the Government's requests for savings and have gone on increasing their spending as if they were totally insulated from the present economic pressures.

This year, local authorities in England are budgeting to exceed government targets by a total of £84m; and three-quarters of the overspend - £63.2m - is down to the 18 councils which are to have their rates limited next year. These 18 represent only a small proportion of England's 413 local authorities.

Some of the rate-capped councils have hit their ratepayers very hard. Domestic ratepayers in Hackney, who have been subject to the excessive spending of the GLC and ILEA, as well as of Hackney itself, are a case in point.

Amid the noisy politics of the Ethiopian famine, little is now heard of the black Jews, the Falashas, 10,000 of the country's poorest and most backward people.

When Foreign Office junior minister Malcolm Rifkind visited Addis Ababa in July he pressed the Ethiopian authorities to allow free emigration for those Falashas who remain inside the borders. He was assured that they would not be hindered. There have even been suggestions that further aid has been made conditional on help being provided for them.

The Falashas live in the highlands around Gondar close to the Sudanese border. As a small minority in one of the most Christian areas of Ethiopia they have tended to be excluded from the army and positions of power. They adopted the lowest rung on the pre-revolutionary Ethiopian social scale, acting as landless potters, weavers and blacksmiths to the Christian peasantry. Even this limited role in society was blocked to them in recent decades, however, as markets for their traditional artefacts were taken over by imports.

The Falashas were identified as Jews in the nineteenth century but were not officially accepted as such under Israel's Law of Return until 1975. There are a number of theories about their provenance. The most romantic is that they are the descendants of Menelik, the natural son of Solomon and Sheba. Another is that they have kinship with the Jews who migrated into Yemen and Arabia after the destruction of the Second Temple, but then they would have a Bible in Hebrew rather than Greek. Yet other scholars see them simply as heretics against Ethiopian Coptic Christianity.

The most widely accepted theory - certainly among Jews - is that the Falashas are descendants of the Jewish mercenaries who, based at Elephantine Island on the Upper Nile, defended the Hellenized pharaohs of Egypt against Nubia from around 650 BC to 420 BC, when they revolted and fled into Ethiopia.

This explains why their Bible (written in Ge'ez, the ancient language of Ethiopia) is a translation from the Greek Septuagint rather than from the Hebrew. It also puts in perspective the Falasha practice of animal sacrifice, which is forbidden by orthodox Jews.

The Marxist government which took power in Ethiopia in 1975 was not prepared to allow special status to any religious groups, and was

loath to admit that any of its peoples wanted to emigrate. Falasha resentment at such restrictions was encouraged by foreign support groups, which tended to paint the Falashas as victims of Soviet-style pogroms.

Falashas have continued to press to leave Ethiopia, and when visas have not been granted have taken the difficult way out through Sudan. Today about a third of around 30,000 Falashas are reported to be still in Ethiopia, a third on the road to Israel (which usually means in Sudan), and a third in Israel itself.

It is difficult to say which of these groups has had the worst experience. Falashas in Ethiopia continue to live in some of the poorest villages in the country. Although their conditions may be better today than under the emperor, they are aware of an antipathy towards minority

Kenneth Baker, Local Government Minister, says the Conservatives will not be deflected in their fight against high-spending councils

have seen their bills go up by almost 400 per cent; in Sheffield, where the rates bill includes the precept levied by high-spending South Yorkshire, domestic rates have gone up by 245 per cent. Over the same period, the retail price index has gone up by 80 per cent.

Opponents of rate limitation argue that local authorities are democratically elected bodies with a mandate from their electorates for what they do and spend. But the reality is that the link between ballot box and the rating system has worn pretty thin. On average, more than half the non-rate bill is borne by the non-domestic sector, which has no vote. And those who have the vote - many of whom receive rebates or have their rates paid in full - finance less than a quarter of net local authority spending.

In Camden, for instance, the domestic ratepayer finances just 18 per cent of the council's spending and the non-domestic as much as 64 per cent. Such an imbalance must raise questions as to the real nature of local accountability.

Predictably, the announcement last July of the 18 authorities selected for rate limitation produced howls of outrage. It was the signal for the municipal propaganda machine to move into top gear. Since then we have been assailed with emotional claims that rate limitation will mean the devastation and destruction of services in the councils concerned; that rents will go up, home helps will be cut, adult education classes closed, and nursery school places withdrawn.

But these claims are blatant scaremongering. The strident noises of protest are concerned more with the preservation of power and the unfettered right to spend other people's money than with traditional concept of service to the community on which our system of local government is based.

It is also important to realize that we are protecting not just the householders: rate limitation helps to keep industry and jobs in areas where councils are driving them away with rate increases of crippling proportions. It is therefore very

much in the interests of the community as a whole.

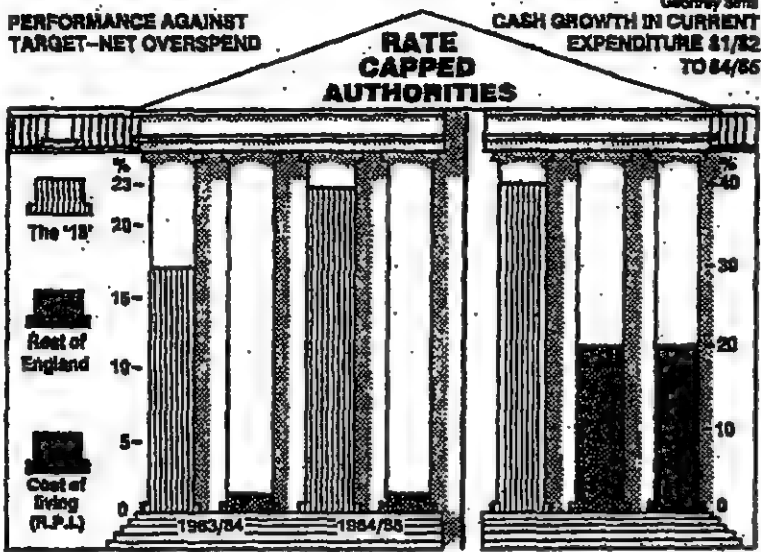
Is it unreasonable to ask 15 of the 18 to keep their spending in 1985/86 to the same level in cash terms as this year - in other words to absorb the cost of inflation? The other three whose spending has grown fastest - the GLC, the ILEA and the London Borough of Greenwich - have been asked to make a cash-terms cut of 1½ per cent. There is no doubt that many councils have taken a battering during the recession would have been very relieved if their cost-cutting could have been of such modest proportions.

Some of the councils are arguing that the levels we have set do not take into account some special year-on-year funding arrangements, the use of special funds and the like. If so, why don't they come and tell us which the law specifically allows them to do. But none has done so.

At present there is some brave talk about councillors embarking on various forms of illegal action - euphemistically termed "non-compliance" by its advocates. But if councillors are serious about leading their authorities over the brink into illegality, the first to suffer would be their employees who would not be paid, together with local people who depend on the council's services. As for the councillors themselves, such action could lead them personally to audit surcharge and possibly disqualification from office. If that happened they would have no one to blame but themselves.

Let no one make any mistake. We mean business in our determination to protect the ratepayers of these high-spending councils from domestic ratepayers who have suffered crippling increases in their rate bills and commercial ratepayers who provide jobs which keep the local economy going. We are talking not about the destruction of local services but about the preservation of communities and the provision of reasonable services more cheaply and efficiently. Councillors who are genuinely dedicated to serving their communities should be more concerned with these objectives than with political brinkmanship.

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Andrew Lycett on the plight of Ethiopia's Jewish Falasha community

Poorest of the poor - or aliens in the promised land



Typically Africa - until you spot the Star of David

loath to admit that any of its peoples wanted to emigrate. Falasha resentment at such restrictions was encouraged by foreign support groups, which tended to paint the Falashas as victims of Soviet-style pogroms.

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It is difficult to say which of these groups has had the worst experience. Falashas in Ethiopia continue to live in some of the poorest villages in the country. Although their conditions may be better today than under the emperor, they are aware of an antipathy towards minority

cultures and a continuing block on their emigration. Those who have made the difficult decision to try to reach Israel are often robbed in flight, beaten up and ridden with disease before arriving at an uncertain future in refugee camps in Sudan. And those who actually make it to Israel regularly find themselves victims of intolerance.

The plight of these unfortunate people has captured the imagination of lobby groups such as the American Association for Ethiopian Jews, which have harassed the Ethiopian, Israeli and western governments for lack of action on the Falashas' behalf.

One of the last legislative acts of the recently dissolved US Congress was to vote \$2.5m for the settlement of Ethiopian Jews in Israel. No United States minister has been able to visit Addis Ababa to plead for the

Falashas. So that role may have been left to Rifkind.

Perhaps the best documented accounts of Falashas today refer to their condition in Israel. The Israeli authorities do their best. On arrival Falashas are sent to absorption centres where each family is visited regularly for six months by social workers. They are taught the rudimentary skills of modern living, such as how to use a bank. They are also given 45,000 shekels for "appliances and furniture" - a sum recently described in the *Jerusalem Post* as "about enough for a refrigerator door".

But even at this stage cultural differences are not easy to overcome. One social worker recalls visiting a family to help sack laundry. She was startled to find the woman of the house in the linen cupboard. She later found out that, even today in Falasha villages, women who have menstruated are considered unclean for seven days and often have to live in a separate hut away from the main home. This unfortunate immigrant could find no such hut, and had to make do with the only realistic alternative. These cultural differences, when amplified in the workplace, have often led to anti-Falasha prejudice among long-settled Israelis.

Frances Stanger, a psychologist who has worked in the absorption centres, says that the immigrants lose confidence in themselves. "They feel that their culture is backward. At the same time they are so keen to do what is right in their new country that they lose confidence even in their ability to bring up their own children."

For many Falashas this cultural

tightrope has been too difficult to negotiate and there have been a number of suicides - something unknown when they lived in Ethiopia.

These problems have led to new thinking on the Falashas' future. Dr Richard Pankhurst, Britain's leading Ethiopian scholar, does not believe there is discrimination against the Falashas in Ethiopia and says: "You don't have to take the Falashas to Israel to maintain their identity. Religion is only one strand of their identity and culture, which in many ways was more valued by them if they remained in Ethiopia."

But the principle of free emigration, if desired, remains an essential human right - which explains why Mr Rifkind should continue to raise it.

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Mao killed millions: Deng just detains

One hundred and ninety five Chinese constitute the country's most unfortunate minority. They are all that remain of the 20 million "disappeared" - rich landlords, rich peasants, counter-revolutionaries, rightists, or bad elements during the Maoist purges of the 1950s. For those who escaped execution, designation meant humiliation, or hard labour. Until the designations were removed, sometimes not for 30 years, they blighted the social, political, and work lives of their bearers and families.

This week the Ministry of Public Security announced that a final 78,327 of the original 20 million - the first time China has released such a figure - have had their labels removed. They are now *ex-pariah*. Only 195 are still detained, the ministry announced, or undergoing *laogai*, education by labour.

The authorities make no apology to the 78,327, or even to the 982 who they concede had been "wrongly designated" for the last 30 years. Deng Xiaoping, party general secretary during most of that period, still insists that the 1957 anti-rightist drive, the biggest purge of all, was necessary, if over-zealous.

Nor is 20 million necessarily accurate. In 1958 Mao put the figure at "more or less 30 million", or 5 per cent of the population. Up to 1954 alone, Mao was to write, 800,000 had been executed. In 1957, Premier Chou En-lai was most precise: 16.8 per cent of the counter-revolutionaries had been sentenced to death.

In 1954 10 million "unrehabilitated class enemies" were deprived of their civil rights.

Probably the most famous "rightist" was China's best-known woman novelist, Ding Ling. Released in 1979 after more than 20 years of torture, banishment, and isolation, she observed: "In the 1930s the Kuomintang (Chiang Kaishek's regime) banned my books. After 1958 we ourselves banned them."

She remembered other victims. "Did they all really deserve to be treated like dung?" Even during the purges, some went straight to the top to complain. In 1957 one brave professor wrote to Mao: "During the campaign for the suppression of counter-revolutionaries in 1955, an untold number of citizens throughout China were detained... A great many died because they could not endure the struggle... We have applied to intellectuals methods of punishment which peasants would not apply to

landlords or workers to capitalists... Intellectuals who chose to die... were innumerable." Innocent of lawyers and impartial judges, the tribunals which provoked these suicides were ad hoc and animated by hatred and revenge. Indeed, from 1949 to January 1980, China had no criminal codes. Until only a few years ago those sentenced as "counter-revolutionaries" (a loosely defined category of abuse) could expect anything from three years to death. By the mid-1950s there existed "five bad categories": once placed in one of them, and given a "cap" as a "rich peasant" or whatever, one's civil rights disappeared.

Detention, forced labour, or some other form of "control" followed, together with disgrace for close relations. Such designations became matters of life and death during the great convulsions which swept China until Mao's death and the arrest of the Gang of Four in late 1976. Only in 1979 did the government begin to abolish labels altogether. Until then the grandchildren of pre-revolutionary rich peasants and landlords were still being stigmatized.

In 1979, for example, a leading

scientist received his rehabilitation dossier. It was as thick as a London telephone book. Every charge since 1951 had been reinvestigated and judged spurious. A brilliant student from a rich Shanghai family who obtained a PhD from Yale had been assumed to be a spy for having voluntarily returned to China to serve the new communist state. Unlabeled, he was suddenly elevated from laboratory technician to university professor and awarded 25 years of back pay. His wife was also promoted, and his daughter admitted to a select school.

China is proud of its four-year-old legal system. Apart from the still-labelled 195, the "five bad categories" are no more. But "counter-revolutionary" remains in the new constitution and is enshrined in the recent criminal codes. It is as vague a concept as ever. Counter-revolutionaries still vanish without trial. Last month Amnesty reported that the prisoners of conscience of whom it is aware are only a small fraction of the total number in the People's Republic of China.

Jonathan Mirsky

Digby Anderson

Thrashing around for invective

Dr Paul Corrigan, head of the Applied Social Studies Department at the troubled Polytechnic of North London, has resigned as from the end of December. Dr Corrigan was described by *New Society* recently as a "democratic Marxist". I hope he will not mind if I suggest his Christmas holiday reading should include the works of St Alphonsus Liguori, *Tales of the brothers Grimm* and Dante's *Divine Comedy* ("Hell" only).

Social Work Today explains that he is resigning to "underline the conditions that are necessary to successfully defend any progressive educational or welfare practice five years into Thatcherism". He complains: "We have been through something which many social services departments are familiar with a good thrashing from the right a continual attempt to publicly humiliate". In the current *Times Higher Education Supplement* he calls the experience a "nightmare".

Dr Corrigan, who is reported as envisaging a career in local government, is convinced that progressive social work is still possible if it "can just hang on in there".

I wish him good fortune. No doubt he will know and avoid those "many social services departments" in whose employment his wounds might be reopened. My major worry is for his vocabulary. If Thatcherism is "thrashing" social workers and their teachers after only five years, how will its effects be adequately described after nine? And if as in Rider Haggard, she is returned for a third term of five years, will there be a dictionary with hyperbolic sufficient to describe her viciousness?

It is a general problem for the many on the left who have made a rhetorical profession out of "defending essential services". While waiting to get their hands on the public purse strings once more, they vent their extravagance on the language. Here as in the economy, inflation devalues and corrupts. The longer the waiting, the worse the problem. Cuts in health, education and social work were described as "vicious" less than one year "into Thatcherism". The mild restraint of the police on picket duty has already exhausted the ultimate pejoratives of "Nazi", "fascist" and "storm-trooper". Where do you go, in rhetoric, from there? I only hope my reading list will help - Alphonsus is good on gore and martyrdom - but I doubt it.

The alternative solution would be for them to realize they are in for a long linguistic siege and use the ammunition sparingly, keeping their Dante dry for the final "crisis". But can addicts of 95 per cent proof hysteria-speak be maintained on verbal near-beer? Would public sympathy be engaged by a complaint that a service, essential or not, "has been spanked ever so gently with a woolly slipper"? That would be

neither the truth in most cases, including that of the Sociology and Applied Social Studies departments of PNL. All that has happened there is that degree admissions, teaching and assessment have been subjected to public scrutiny and minor changes urged. As regards the Harrington affair, staff have merely been asked to obey the law.

It could have been worse. Although criticized by HM Inspectors for a "long tail of poor achievers", none of the staff has been disciplined, demoted or sacked. Research, their other main non-teaching duty, has not even been remarked on. No one has asked why nearly half the staff continue to teach at degree level when they have failed to publish any significant amounts of research over many years of publicly-funded employment (staff disclose their research publications in submissions to the Council for National Academic Awards).

Those inspecting the records of the staff who have published will have found a significant number of Marxist and radical themes for "committed" journals and publications. The *Communist Party's Marxist Today*, Lawrence and Wishart, which has a long record of publishing communist material; *Black Liberator*; the *Left Review*; the *Feminist Review*, committed to the development of socialist feminism; and *Critical Social Policy*. The Inspectors and the CNA do not so much as quibble about these research preferences even at a time of stretched public funds. That is liberal tolerance. Some academic academia might call it indulgence. What it is, not except in wonderland, is a "thrashing".

Most of the staff are on senior lecturer grades, being paid up to £13,000 a year by the taxpayer - some for a number of years now. They have considerable autonomy over their teaching and research. How many of them could better their pay or conditions outside the public sector? How many have tried? Even in that sector their lot is envied. Employees of "many social services departments" would queue to be based for the sort of flogging enjoyed by the PNL social work teachers.

I doubt whether I will persuade Dr Corrigan or any of the left who protest about their miseries in public employment to abandon their attachment to hyperbole. A man whose recent book is titled *Taking to the streets* is not going to give up his "struggles" and "crisis" lightly. So I offer him Grimm and the other reading tips as a source of heightened language with which to describe increased sufferings to come. Failing these, there are always video-nasties.

The author is Director of the Social Affairs Unit.

Robin Cook

The true villains of the piece

Last week Mrs Thatcher closed her speech which followed the opening of Parliament with a purple passage on the paramountcy of law. Once a Bill has been passed by Parliament, she apparently regards obedience to it as a categorical imperative. The significance of the passage is that by asserting that she now has the law on her side, she has asked out her claim to the ground of high moral principle in the coming confrontation between her government and half the local authorities in the land.

At this point I had better come clean and ask for previous convictions to be taken into account. Back in 1972 I was a member of a town council which for a time defied the Housing Finance Act brought in by the Heath government. Let anyone imagine such decisions are taken easily, let me further confess that I have never experienced greater stress than in those months of the frequent disputes with my wife who was heavily pregnant and whose nest-building urges recoiled from the prospect of losing our home through surcharge. No sane person actually wants to find himself in confrontation with the power of the state and the majesty of Parliament over a point of principle.

The rhetorical trick played by Mrs Thatcher was to glide swiftly from condemning defiance of the law of public administration into denouncing as one and the same thing breaches of the criminal code. This is disingenuous. Local councillors are not roaming the streets at night with lengths of lead pipe looking for ratepayers to mug. Many of them know perhaps better than the members of the Cabinet the harrowing distress caused to their electors by street crime in the inner city areas.

The fundamental dishonesty is the suggestion that any Bill passed by Parliament, however partisan its origins or however contemptuous its nature, thereby gains the same legitimacy which the criminal law derives from its consensus support. In reality, outside the area of criminal law we are all selective as to which laws we regard as important to observe.

Even this government is selective as to which laws it enforces. While priding itself on additional expenditure for law and order it has reduced the ranks of those who police compliance with the laws passed by Parliament on health and safety at work, although there is greater risk of mutilation or death in the workplace than from assault on the streets. The same tale can be repeated about monitoring minimum wages set by wages councils appointed by parliamentary statutes. Government connivance at breaches of the law in these fields presumably

reflects a political judgment that some laws do not command the same absolute obedience as others.

Taken literally, Mrs Thatcher's strictures on "the supremacy of the law" would render improper any other ethical codes or individual conscience. Yet history is littered with honourable examples of civil disobedience to unjust laws, aimed at forcing their abolition. Martin Luther King achieved international acclaim for a crusade explicitly centred on defiance of racist laws. Nearer home we recently celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the mass trespass of Kinder Scout which asserted the moral right of access for the densely packed residents of industrial cities to the open moors around them.

Precedents can even be found in the history of local government in Britain. In the 1930s, when maintenance of the unemployed was still a charge on local authorities, George Lansbury led Poplar council in a refusal to hand over the precept on its rates to London County Council, in protest at the patent injustice of being required to pay the same contribution as more prosperous boroughs with a lighter burden. The subsequent imprisonment of Lansbury and his fellow councillors provoked such public outcry that the government was obliged to equalize the cost of unemployment relief across the London boroughs.

Mrs Thatcher argued last week that such defiance is to "deny the ascendancy of the ballot box". Yet the local councils are also returned by the ballot box, and the budgets they draw up are based on local judgments of local needs. In setting this aside to impose her own budget on council, Mrs Thatcher is not defending the ascendancy of the ballot box but asserting the superiority of those ballot boxes favourable to herself.

There is in Mrs Thatcher's statements a dangerous confusion of democracy with dictatorship by parliamentary majority - or worse, dictatorship not even by majority but by the minority of the electorate from whom that parliamentary majority is derived. None of this is to deny that any deliberate infringement of the law must be a matter of great moment: to the extent that it weakens respect for the institution of the law, it is a matter of great regret. That is precisely why government should not use the law as an instrument by which it forces its own political preferences on local democracies, some of which will inevitably get at what they are being obliged to swallow.

The author is Labour MP for Livingston.



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LONG HAUL AT THE PITHEAD

The collapse and end of the miners' strike, though still beyond the horizon, already threatens to be as messy, divisive and damaging as the conduct of the dispute from the start. The accelerated drift back to work since negotiations finally ended has wrested the initiative in the dispute from the leadership of the National Union of Mineworkers. It cannot easily be regained. The drift back to producing pits can only help the Government's ability and determination to avoid power cuts. Time underlines the inability of other unions to deliver decisive industrial support. Indeed, it is now clear that further support from outside, apart from money, will consist of no more than peripheral gestures of solidarity.

Violence has been organized to a new and fearful level of lawlessness in pit villages, particularly in the strike's Yorkshire heartland. But this is only a sign that the violence of intimidation has turned into the yet uglier violence of frustration and despair among those most loyal to Mr Arthur Scargill. It will be seen as such and can only be counterproductive by convincing more wavering miners that Mr Scargill's cause is a losing one.

Such miners will be equally unimpressed by the self-confidence of the Home Secretary and some other ministers that the strike will soon be all over bar the shouting. There is as yet little evidence of this. Some 2,200 strikers returned to work last week according to the National Coal Board. At that rate, the strike could be a year old before a majority were back. This week, the pace has quickened sharply before next Monday's deadline for back allowances to be paid before Christmas. Many more may take that opportunity to make their private decision to

call off the strike, the only decision they are allowed to take. But once that deadline has passed, the pace may slacken again until the next arrives.

The strike is crumbling, but it is premature to claim it is collapsing. Miners themselves are perhaps the best judges of the trend. And those now returning to work seem to share a despair with those staying on strike that they do not know how and when it is going to end. We seem to be stuck in a bitter campaign of attrition.

Whatever the wider concerns of government, the NCB and the NUM are now sustained largely by the weight of losses they have already suffered. Mr Scargill seemed to acknowledge as much in a speech in Newcastle on Remembrance Sunday. If anyone should ask why the pain of the dispute should continue, he said, "I say you owe it to those who have died to win this struggle." In its settlement with the pit deputies, the NCB has already lost whatever new ground Mr MacGregor sought to gain. As Mr Jack Eccles, the TUC chairman, acknowledged, the NUM must eventually accept that it cannot impose a ban on closures of uneconomic pits that has never existed before.

Mr MacGregor must take some responsibility for the concept of attrition in this dispute - an alien one in British industrial relations, and so much less effective and flexible than the aggressive stick and carrot approach adopted by Sir Michael Edwards and his successors at BL. It is now clear that Mr Scargill also prepared for a long struggle from the start. It was the NUM leadership that ensured stalemate by refusing its members a national ballot and dividing them. The NUM alone can now help to shorten the agony of its members by calling a

belated ballot or by making it clear that it is now prepared to negotiate for a settlement on the basis of the Coal Board's deal with the deputies.

The Government and the Coal Board now have little option but to stand firm and to pursue their successful new policy of expediting a return to work by co-ordinating greater protection from picket violence and by offering strikers a series of time-limited incentives to return to their jobs. Further negotiations would merely delay this process in the absence of a clear public commitment to compromise by the NUM. Nor should the Board be seduced by Dr David Owen's naive plan to negotiate on pay with working Nottingham miners in return for an end to the overtime ban - which was constitutionally approved by their union. Dr Owen has seriously misread the stance of the Nottingham miners. They rejected the strike call precisely because it was not in line with their reading of the NUM rulebook and are sensitive to any suggestion of disloyalty to their union.

The dispute may still have some time to run. Eventually, common sense dictates some formal settlement long before the last Scargill loyalist is forced bitterly back to work. The TUC, which missed its opportunity to play a constructive role at the time of the Nacods settlement, may then have a role to play in persuading the majority of the NUM executive to settle and helping them to salvage what face they can.

Then will be the time for Government to ensure that such a pit dispute can never happen again. And their priority will surely lie in restructuring the coal industry. New laws on public order should wait until existing laws are enforced.

DIRTY WARFARE

Chemical weapons produce a feeling of revulsion which is not all that easy to rationalize. It may be their insidious indiscriminate effects or the memories and tales of those who were gassed in the trenches of the First World War. The fact remains that only nuclear and perhaps germ warfare can provoke so much fear or sense of outrage.

The debate has been rekindled this year by a number of developments, including apparent confirmation that Iraq has used chemical weapons in the Gulf War, and a demand by Nato's Supreme Allied Commander in Europe (Saceur) that allied armies should be equipped with at least the potential to deploy the latest generation.

Still more recently a report published by the Institute for European Defence and Strategic Studies supported the call by Saceur, General Bernard Rogers, by insisting that the deployment of modern chemical weapons by Nato was the most effective way of deterring the Soviet Union from ever using its own growing stockpiles.

The use of chemical weapons is in fact banned by the Geneva Protocol of 1925, signed by countries still shocked by the attacks of the First World War. By and large its signatories have complied with its provisions. The Italians used gas against the Ethiopians in 1935, the Japanese did so several years later against the Chinese, while there have been reports of attacks more recently in South-East Asia and Afghanistan in addition to those emanating from the Gulf.

Use has been occasional rather than general, and has always been met by worldwide condemnation - however ineffectual. On the other hand this abstinence by the allied and axis powers during the Second World War and by most participants in the various imbroglios thereafter has probably had less to do with respect for the protocol than with doubts over the military effectiveness of chemical weapons and fears over the likelihood of retaliation.

The argument over military ineffectiveness may no longer hold water. Although climatic conditions are obviously important, modern binary-type munitions can be more safely stored, more accurately delivered and designed to cope with specific wartime requirements - long-lasting agents for use against enemy ports to keep them out of action, short-term gases to destroy the enemy front-line, clearing in time for one's own troops to follow up the attack.

The Russians clearly operate on the principle that such weapons might be used, as can be observed from their exercises. The mere threat to use them could force the other side into hot, heavy and debilitating protective gear which would impede their fighting efficiency.

Britain destroyed its stocks of chemical weapons in the 1950s. France is believed to have an undisclosed quantity. But only the Americans in Nato have substantial stores and even they have not made any since 1969. There is no doubt that the Soviets have the advantage in quality and quantity - and they continue to forge ahead.

Should the West try to catch them up? In recent years the emphasis has been on arms control. In 1972 an agreement was reached banning the use, production and stockpiling of biological weapons - and ever since there has been widespread hope that a similar convention might be drafted for chemical munitions too.

The argument put forward by General Rogers and the institute's author Manfred Hamm is twofold. In the first place they contend that no such reliable treaty is negotiable unless the West gives itself some bargaining power. In the second, Nato needs a retaliatory capability to respond in kind to a Soviet chemical attack. At present, the argument runs, it might have to resort to nuclear weapons. Chemical munitions like the precision-guided projectiles of Emergent Technology, are thus necessary to raise the nuclear threshold.

There is perhaps an argument for modernizing the stocks of American CW which already exist, if only to demonstrate to Moscow that the West has the will. But the chief objective must remain to build on what arms control measures there are - the Geneva protocol and the Microbiological Weapons Convention. So far success has been elusive. But it has not looked unattainable. For the West to divert from this course and opt for a matching deployment, would risk opening a Pandora's box which we might all have cause to regret.

WHOSE WATER IS IT ANYWAY?

There's no votes in sewage, according to an old adage adopted by the government in the 1983 Water Act. In the administration of water and sewage, votes were dispensed with: the role of councillors was effectively ended. Regional water authorities were to substitute business-like ways for their old municipal sloth. Government appointees were to supervise the drains and the faucets with efficiency and commercial acumen. As for votes and the trappings of elective politics, the government planned occasionally to wind up the water authorities' clock (the external financing limit) and, save for the occasional late-night parliamentary debate, let the aqueous machine run its own sweet way.

Maybe the farmers (interested parties in land drainage?), the industrialists (someone was responsible for building the white elephant of Kielder) and the quango-men who comprise the bulk of the authorities' membership are best fitted for complicated assessments of demand, financial planning and - after this summer's weather in the south west and Wales - the odd plea for divine intercession. In

the wake of the Chancellor's autumn statement, water rates are predicted to rise next year (and the years after that) by striking amounts - up to 20 per cent in some watersheds; maybe, still, such financial judgments are matters for boards of experts appointed in the Secretary of State's wisdom. Maybe. But how are we, the public which trusts water to flow from the tap and expects the balcock to rise and fall on cue, ever to know?

Water authorities meet in secret. It is not thought appropriate - as the chairman of the Water Authorities Association wrote to *The Times* the other week - to meet the public or lay open proceedings for public discussion. Secrecy, say the water bureaucrats and ministers, is a guarantee of efficiency. The model of the nationalized industries is advanced as justification: British Rail cannot operate commercially with its board's deliberations in the spotlight of publicity. But this model cannot apply directly to the water authorities. They tax; they have access to the rate-payers' income; can employ bailiffs to

in red ink. The householder can, to be sure, add to the economy of Malvern. Failing that the ratepayer pays a water tax without representation.

In the context of the miners' strike, the available models for running the nationalized industries cannot be held to be entirely satisfactory, especially those utilities to which consumer payments have some of the attributes of a tax. If the instruments of public accountability - ad hoc references to the Monopolies Commission, reports of the Public Accounts Committee, visitations by the National Audit Office - were better, the public's suspicions about nationalized industry efficiency would be diminished. As matters stand, a consumer of, say, the Anglian Water Authority (already paying the highest rates in the country) facing successive years' increases well above the rate of inflation has good cause for alarm. If that authority's conclaves in Huntingdon were, just sometimes, open to public gaze the alarm would be less.

The necessary amendment to the Water Act could be inserted quickly and (the example of the Welsh authority shows what is possible) painlessly.

Matter of conscience for Synod on women's ordination

From the Right Reverend Lord Coggan
Sir, May I be allowed to add two points to the letter on the ordination of women to the priesthood, signed by 15 bishops, which appeared in your issue of November 10?

First, next Thursday's debate in the General Synod of the Church of England will be watched with anxious hope by many not only in these islands but also in other parts of the world-wide Anglican Communion. There are many provinces overseas where distress has been caused by the hesitation shown by the "Mother" Church in its debates on this issue over a long period. Members of the Anglican Communion are looking for a measure of bold leadership on the part of the Church of England.

Secondly, your correspondents mention the increasing strain on the loyalty of women who feel called to the priesthood and are unable to test their vocation. This is a matter of grave importance. I wish, in addition, to call attention to a similar strain on the loyalty of those bishops who find themselves in a dilemma which can only be resolved by a positive vote in the debate "to permit the ordination of women to the priesthood".

Let me illustrate. A young man with excellent qualifications and a deep sense of call presents himself to the bishop for ordination. The bishop interviews him and gladly sends him forward for testing by the Church and, it is hoped, ultimately for ordination.

A young woman with similar or even better qualifications - and there are many such women - presents herself to the same bishop. He interviews her and is well satisfied. But he can only reply: "I cannot even send you forward for testing by the Church."

The ministry of the diocese is deprived and weakened. Its chief pastor is left fearing that he has been compounding the refusal of a call.

"Too soon," on Thursday? Surely not. Rather, the time is ripe for a bold step forward.

Yours sincerely,
DONALD COGGAN,
Kingshead House,
Sisemore,
Cranbrook,
Kent.
November 12.

From the Reverend M. J. Moreton
Sir, What is worrying is not the one Bishop of Durham, but the 15 bishops, headed by the Bishop of Manchester. The Bishop of Durham wants to make us think; but the Fifteen are bent on doing permanent and irreparable damage to the Church of England. The Bishop of Durham will stir us up; but the Fifteen will divide the Church.

The Bishop of Durham seeks to explore the fundamental mysteries that are the source and unending spring of the Church's existence; but the Fifteen want to embark on a course of action that has no precedent whatsoever in Catholic tradition in either East or West.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. MORETON,
University of Exeter,
Department of Theology,
Queen's Building,
The Queen's Drive,
Exeter,
Devon.
November 11.

From the Moderator of Movement for the Ordination of Women
Sir, Clifford Longley's article, "Why the bishops will again blackball women priests" (November 12), seems a little out of touch with the facts. On November 8, 1978, when General Synod last voted on the issue of women's ordination, 32 bishops voted in favour and 17 against. We do not anticipate any

From the Reverend Canon Brian Thompson
Sir, Fifteen bishops whom I know and respect plead that the time is right to proceed with the ordination of women in the Church of England (November 10).

It may seem a harsh judgment, but before offering more advice does not the House of Bishops first need to rebuild its credibility in the wake of recommending a set of proposals on the marriage of the divorced in church which have found such little acceptance in the dioceses and which a significant number of bishops themselves did not support?

Yours sincerely,
BRIAN THOMPSON,
St Mary's Rectory,
Church Street,
Woodbridge,
Suffolk.
November 10.

Final straw for council leader

From the Chairman of Buckinghamshire County Council
Sir, May I, in clarification, emphasise some aspects of Hugh Clayton's report today (November 8) about my standing down from the chair of this council next May.

It will be April, 1986, when our ratepayers first suffer the harsh consequences of the Government's continuing failure to allow fairly for what must be spent to provide basic commonsense services for our rapidly growing population.

The complex formula which will activate this crisis and which may mean a 50p in the pound rate increase, already exists. Recent legislation has added rigidity to an already inflexible situation.

The targets set by the Government above which each local authority should not spend in theory match the total of local government spending nationally. This may solve a problem between the Department of Environment and the Treasury but many targets are unjust.

Right across the country prudent Conservative councillors know their targets are unrealistic and ridiculous, and that to spend above them is inevitable if local services are not to break down or become the subject of derision. Thus penalties will, as in Buckinghamshire, increasingly fall heavily on the same hapless ratepayers for whom the Government claims to stand champion.

I am not willing to countenance such injustice.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER PARKER JERVIS,
Chairman,
Buckinghamshire County Council,
Chairman's Room,
Judges Lodgings,
Aylesbury,
Buckinghamshire.
November 8.

Wisdom of hindsight

From the Editor of The Economist
Sir, You cite *The Economist* of 1980. In your first leader today (November 8), attributing to us the statement, "Democrats could scarcely have wished for an easier opponent if they had picked him themselves." That sentence did indeed appear in *The Economist* in March that year. It was immediately followed by the words, "That at least was the view until recently."

In 1965, as you point out, we - like others - may have been busy underestimating Mr Reagan. But not by 1980. The article you quote from four years ago was in fact entitled "Ronald Reagan - not to be underestimated". It went on to make many of the points you are now making over four years later.

Mr Reagan has been surprising complacent rivals for years. In 1966 Governor Pat Brown of California thought it absurd that he could be turned out of office by the television host of "Death Valley Days". Mr Reagan beat him by nearly 10 votes. To treat Mr Reagan as underestimates would be a fatal underestimate for the Democrats.

The odd thing about your citing us incorrectly in this way is that in 1980 *The Economist* provoked wide comment in the American and British press when, three weeks before the election, it recommended Mr Reagan as its preferred candidate for president over Mr Carter.

In its own leader on the eve of the 1980 election, *The Economist* recognised advantages in Mr Reagan but also concluded that, in such an uncertain time, "there would be particular advantages" in continuing with the Carter Administration.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW KNIGHT, Editor,
The Economist,
25 St James's Street, SW1.
November 8.

Nicaraguan conflict

From Dr Graham Jameson
Sir, Would John Carlin please spell out for the rest of us exactly what the Sandinistas have done to provoke the long-suffering United States Administration? His article (November 8) gives no specific examples and your own reports had rather given me the impression that the boot was on the other foot.

The Sandinistas are not, as far as I know, promoting an armed insurrection aimed at overthrowing the US Government. If Nicaraguan warships make a practice of lurking menacingly off US ports, we haven't been told about it. Nor have there been reports of the Sandinistas attempting to bribe Mr Mondale to withdraw from the US election, in order then to persuade the world that President Reagan's victory was worthless.

They have admittedly (again, according to your own reports) had the impertinence to mount a rather successful drive to instruct Nicaraguan villagers in subversive skills like reading and writing. Is this, perhaps, the type of activity that represents an insufferable challenge to President Reagan's blueprint for his "backyard"?

Yours sincerely,
GRAHAM JAMESON,
13 Sandown Road,
Lancaster.
November 9.

Multi-purpose numbers

From Mr Leslie C. Tatum
Sir, *The Times* Portfolio cards do have their uses after all.

For the past few weeks I have used the eight numbers on my card as the basis for a football pool entry.

Last Saturday, those eight numbers gave me six score draws, one no-score draw and one postponed match.

My winnings do not represent a fortune but a least they are more than various other combinations of numbers have produced in the past.

Yours gratefully,
LESLIE C. TATAM,
2 Elm Crescent,
Farnham,
Surrey.
November 8.

From Mrs M. A. Benians
Sir, In the summer of 1959, I attended a meeting at Ridley Hall, Cambridge, and was much criticised for suggesting that women were capable of performing the duties required of any cleric.

It is not therefore a sense of inferiority which leads some of us to oppose the proposal, nor solely the theological arguments. There is the pragmatic problem of the tensions, possible conflict of loyalties and the ensuing emotional strains which may well arise, from a dual-sex ministry. The Church of England can ill afford to embark on any course of action which may, and probably will, increase the breakdown of marriage and the instability of society.

If those women seeking ordination are so certain they are called of God why can they not serve him in one of the churches which already ordains women (they are usually wholehearted supporters of ecumenism) rather than persist in splitting the Church of England for their own fulfillment? Or do they recognise the "call to serve" on their own terms only?

Perhaps they should remind themselves that "Christ must increase - I must decrease".

Yours faithfully,
ELISABETH G. BENIANS,
The Rectory,
Rackheath,
Norwich,
Norfolk.

Tarmac image

From the President of the Society of Industrial Artists and Designers and others
Sir, It is astounding that, with so much design talent available in this country, British Airways should reject that resource in favour of an American firm of consultants.

It is even more alarming that the corporate identity proposed for our national airline, relying as it does upon a badly distinguishable heraldic device perched incongruously above the remnants of the earlier instantly recognizable and appropriate solution, should shortly, and at great expense to the taxpayer, be the image of this country on the tarmacs of the world.

Yours faithfully,
JUNE FRASER,
REILLY,
TERENCE CONRAN,
MONTY FINNISTON,
LESLIE JULIUS,
Society of Industrial Artists and Designers,
12 Carlton House Terrace, SW1.
November 1.

Parks for worship

From Mr Samuel Carr
Sir, You illustrate today (November 5) the new Buddhist pagoda which is being erected in Battersea Park. Why Buddhist? There is no lack of other sects and religions which might be glad to be offered space in the London parks for their churches and chapels, synagogues, temples and mosques. That the parks were conceived of as open spaces is an irrelevance now that such a precedent has been established.

Battersea Park comes under the guardianship of the GLC. Wishing to impute motives, it may be that this, as in other instances, the GLC intends thus to secure the support of a useful minority of voters.

Quis custodiet ipsos custodes? It might be asked, if we are to rely on the GLC to protect the interests of the majority of those who use the parks. And how fortunate that so many parks are royal.

Yours etc,
SAMUEL CARR,
46 Paultons Square, SW3.

Advertising and BBC

From Sir Richard Davies
Sir, The Chairman of the BBC has come out strongly against any idea that the corporation should take advertising as a way of meeting its rapidly rising costs. So far so good. I doubt there are many who think that this is what the BBC is for. But what is it for? Need we pay licence fees to subsidise its aggressive competition across the whole range of services offered free by the commercial companies? Are Radio 1 and 2 really necessary to keep up standards of taste in popular music programmes? Do local radio stations do anything that the local commercial stations do not? How much of BBC1 output

Harnessing the Severn

From Dr T. L. Shaw
Sir, I write with reference to Dr Andrew Lea's letter (October 31). From 1978 to 1981 the Severn Barrage (Bondi) Committee studied many schemes for power generation from the tides of the Severn Estuary. The committee, which included eminent representatives of organisations whose prime concern is for the environment, concluded that there was good reason for Government to undertake further work on the project.

In 1983 the Severn Tidal Power Group was appointed by the Secretary of State for Energy to carry out various studies complementing those of the committee including liaison with the "local authorities and other interested parties on the possible effects of the project on the infrastructure of the region bordering the estuary, including the environment".

To do the latter, it has been appropriate for the group to work through the recognized national and regional environmental bodies of which organizations like Dr Lea's Avon Wildlife Trust are members. This has allowed a fuller debate and hence appreciation of the impact of the scheme to be gained.

The data now available continue to confirm the broad conclusions of the committee that this project need

can truly be said to lead the way towards higher quality?

There certainly are programmes and services difficult to finance adequately by advertising, for one reason or another, and surely providing these are what licence fees are for.

With all the caution usual in dealing with a sacred cow I dare to suggest that careful consideration of questions like these would be a better use of time than thinking up new kinds of taxes, however "easy to collect" they may be. We might even be able to look forward to reduced licence fees!

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD DAVIES,
Comenden Manor,
Cranbrook, Kent.

not prove damaging to the environment, indeed there is increasing reason to believe that it would bring a number of significant benefits to an estuary not renowned for its biological productivity. However, the organizations and experts consulted are also unanimously of the view that much more work needs to be done before they can firmly establish their position. The group fully understand and support this concern, which was also held by the committee and was reflected in their recommendations.

The main thrust of Dr Lea's argument was also contained in a letter published by the Bristol *Evening Post* on October 24. Because of our present commitment to Government we then wrote to Dr Lea asking for sight of the evidence to support his claims. His reply to us did not give this.

The views which Dr Lea advances are out of step with our understanding of the possible effects of the project and, it seems, with generally informed opinion. Professor Wilson's fears (November 12) about wildfowl also appear to be unfounded. Our forthcoming report to the Secretary of State gives us the opportunity to present the evidence as we understand it.

Yours faithfully,
T. L. SHAW,
The Severn Tidal Power Group,
40 Bernard Street, WC1.
November 8.

ed. Perkins raised his hand for silence.
 "Thank you," he said simply, and
 the audience erupted again.

The crowd fell
 deathly quiet in tense expectation.
 "Match point!"

Roger Perkins, tall, trim and tanned, wiped
 his handsome brow, bounced the ball twice before
 hurtling down the service of a lifetime.

McEnroe gasped as the ball screamed past him.
 "Ace! Game! Set! Match!"
 Roger tossed his racket in the air, and
 the crowd rose as one man.

As Perkins strode purposefully into the
 crowded Cabinet Room, the Ministers rose nervously.
 "Any news, PM?" the Home Secretary
 whispered hoarsely.

"They've ignored our ultimatum," Perkins snapped,
 his pipe clenched in his firm manly jaw.

"We're at war, Gentlemen. And we're going to win."
 The PM's iron resolve sent a surge of hope and
 determination through the room.

The tall slim blonde shimmered into
 the laboratory and slid sensuously on to a stool.
 "Oh Doctor Perkins" she cooed, "you must
 rest. You haven't stopped for days."

"How can I stop now?" Roger said, pale and
 worn, but strangely handsome, "when I am so close to a
 cure for the disease which has bedevilled mankind."
 "Oh Doctor Perkins," she fluttered.

He wouldn't dream of being an engineer, of course.

Engineering has always been a bit of a dirty word in Britain.
 We may have pioneered the Industrial Revolution.
 We may have banked on our manufacturers for much of
 the nation's wealth.

But we have never made the fuss of our engineers that other
 countries have of theirs.

The young German, Japanese or American might well dream
 of being an engineer.

For he knows that he can rise to the highest positions, earn
 the greatest rewards, win the utmost respect.

Perhaps that explains why their industries are out-stripping
 our own.

It is certainly a reflection of the priority they place on them.
 And their success.

Last year for the first time in 200 years we imported more
 manufactured goods than we exported.

It's a crisis for Britain.

And The Engineering Council has been formed to tackle it.

To impress upon the country (and the City) the importance
 of our manufacturing, process and construction industries.

To encourage industry to invest more in training and
 competitive product innovation.

To persuade universities, polytechnics and schools to give
 engineering the utmost priority.

And to make sure our children, girls as well
 as boys, know the opportunities for engineers.

And the excitements.

For until our brightest children dream of
 engineering, we can't possibly dream of being
 a major industrial power again.



FIGHTING TO HELP BRITAIN MAKE IT

THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Too much reliance on state asset sales?

Mr Lawson, in his autumn statement on Monday, said that he was raising his forecast proceeds from privatization next year from £2,500 million. The extra £500 million of asset sales, with the trimming of the contingency reserve, is one of the main reasons why the Chancellor has been able to present next year's public spending total as only marginally in excess of his original estimate. Assessing whether the £500 million extra is realistically based or simply a fudge is difficult, not because it involves making judgments now about what price future privatization candidates will realize in a year or so's time.

That said, there are grounds for thinking that the figure is more fudge than fact. The Telecom issue is undoubtedly going well and looks like raising nearer £3,000 million before expenses. It is still scheduled for next spring, and at this stage also looks like going well. Both these sales were included in the previous asset sale forecasts so new evidence is forthcoming from the Treasury about how the privatization targets - £1,900 million this year, £2,500 million next year and £2,000 million in 1986/7 - will be made up.

Many of the other targets on the privatization list will be either too small or take too long to come through to feature in next year's Treasury accounts. The National Bus Company, British Airports Authority and possibly the Royal Ordnance Factories are unlikely to reach the market before the 1986/87 financial year.

Apart from British Airways the onus on filling the gap next year looks like falling on Unipart and the warship yard of British Shipbuilders. A close reading of the autumn statement, however, shows that the proceeds of the shipyards sale are already provisionally included in next year's External Financing Limit for British Shipbuilders; to include it in the asset sale estimate would be a clear case of double counting.

A trend toward illusion has already become apparent in the current financial year. Though the Government raised more than £940 million from privatization, in three of the five sales involved (Wych Farm, Jaguar and Sealink) the proceeds have gone not to the Treasury, but to their former parent state industries (British Gas, BL and British Rail).

One conclusion from this analysis is that the Treasury will fall back on some further dilution of its residual holdings in denationalized companies. Britoil must be top of the list, especially when the loyalty bonus to small shareholders had been paid out next November. Mr Peter Rees, the Chief Secretary has already made clear the Government will sell its remaining holdings (48 per cent in the case of Britoil) when market conditions dictate.

JMB shadow over deputy governor

The political row over the debacle at Johnson Matthey Bankers and the subsequent rescue by the Bank of England shows no sign of going away. Yesterday Dr David Owen, SDP leader, returned to the fray with a series of further detailed questions for the Governor of the Bank of England on the viability of JMB's bullion business. It also transpired that Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Governor, has offered Dr Owen a private and off-the-record briefing on the JMB affair.

According to private correspondence from the governor to Dr Owen, the Bank of England is worried that Dr Owen is receiving ill-founded information about JMB; the Bank is clearly concerned to set this right. It is unusual, although by no

means unique, for the Governor of the Bank of England to hold private discussions with politicians on matters in which they have a particular interest. Also unusual, although quite legitimate, is the way the Chancellor, last week asked the governor to field the questions which Dr Owen had been addressing to him.

The gist of Dr Owen's latest attack is largely the viability of JMB's continuing bullion and other businesses.

The Bank of England has maintained all along that apart from the commercial lending side of JMB, which gave rise to the enormous losses, the rest of the business is sound.

One possible consequence of the JMB affair is the effect it may have on the future of the deputy-governor Mr Christopher "Kit" McMahon, whose five-year term expires at the end of February. There is no indication whether Mr McMahon wishes to be reappointed or whether he has other plans. The deputy-governor's appointment is, like the Governor's, a Crown Appointment and so in the Prime Minister's hands. There is already talk that the JMB affair may have prejudiced Mr McMahon's chances of reappointment. That would be a mistake.

Admittedly, Mr McMahon is not the kind of man who appeals to Mrs Thatcher because his political leanings are not hers. His first inclination, on hearing of Mr Leigh-Pemberton's appointment was to resign and seek another future. One of the Governor's most significant early contributions was to dissuade Mr McMahon from going. The deputy-governor still has a great deal to contribute.

'Shares for all' the American way

There are more ways of ensuring wider share ownership than pricing British Telecom shares at an irresistible level. Mr Stuart Speiser, a New York lawyer, yesterday, addressed the newly-formed City branch of the SDP on his SuperStock scheme. The audience was appropriate: the shares-for-all plan unveiled by Dr David Owen, the SDP leader, at the party's conference in Buxton is a close relative of SuperStock.

Mr Speiser's scheme envisages the creation of "capitalist income" for all. In this way, not only would the capitalist system be preserved but the need for "socialist income," in other words welfare payments, would eventually be removed.

In the American version, the 2,000 largest US companies would become SuperStock companies. At present they invest about \$300 billion (£238 billion) mainly through bank loans and retained profits. Under the scheme, all such investment would come from government-guaranteed loans, with shares of equivalent distributed free to the population.

The SuperStock companies would be required to distribute all profits. Corporation tax would disappear, dividends being taxed as income.

Every family in America would have a capital holding of \$100,000 within 20 years, and an annual "capitalist income" of \$10,000-\$20,000.

In theory, the plan provides a convenient compromise just this side of the capitalist-socialist halfway house. In practice, it would put the administrators of the SuperStock scheme in an all-powerful position, taking over from the market the role of allocation investment between companies.

Perhaps selling British Telecom cheaply is a better way after all!

Security Pacific in Tokyo link for inter-dealer broking

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Security Pacific, the Californian bank, plans to take a 50 per cent stake in a joint company with Tullett & Tokyo Forex International in order to participate in the new style gilt market as an inter-dealer broker.

Tullett & Tokyo, which is 47 per cent owned by the biggest Japanese moneybroker, Tokyo Forex, ranks among the top three London moneybrokers.

Security Pacific is the ninth largest banking group in the US and is making a determined thrust into the British securities market. It has already reached agreement to buy the stock-brokers Hoare Govett and the stockjobbers Charles Puley once Stock Exchange rules allow.

The Bank of England's proposals for the government securities market of the future envisage inter-dealer brokers

(IDBs) acting as brokers between the primary dealers who will make the market in government stocks.

Although many companies have already expressed interest in becoming primary dealers, Security Pacific and Tullett & Tokyo are the first publicly to express interest in becoming an IDB.

Security Pacific already owns an IDB in the US through RJM Securities. It is using RJM to form a link with Tullett & Tokyo.

RJM Securities will take a 50 per cent stake in a subsidiary company, Tullett & Tokyo Securities, which has an agreement with Cantor Fitzgerald, the New York firm, to deal in US government securities. However, this arrangement expires at the beginning of next February.

Mr Derek Tullett, chairman

of Tullett & Tokyo, said yesterday: "Our initial thrust will be to act as an IDB in the UK gilt market."

There have already been informal discussions with the Bank of England and some other companies are also understood to have expressed interest to the Bank in becoming IDBs. However, formal applications do not have to be in until next year. Mr Robert Smith, vice-chairman of Security Pacific, who heads the bank's global capital markets system, said RJM Securities would bring technology and expertise to the new venture.

He said that Security Pacific was still interested in becoming a primary dealer in the London gilt market, possibly through Hoare Govett.

Of the six IDBs in New York, two are owned and operated by British companies: Mercantile

House Holdings with Fundamental Brokers Inc and Mills & Allen International with Garban.

In April, Garban opened a London office to provide a service to the 33 United States primary dealers represented here.

Mercantile's Fundamental Brokers Inc is the largest of these brokers in the United States market and this broking service has now been extended to the United States primary dealers in London.

Security Pacific is planning to build a global merchant banking and securities capability with London and the United States as the centrepieces of the operation. The bank was an unsuccessful bidder for Continental Illinois's London merchant bank which was eventually bought by First Interstate Bank of California.

Hopes of base rate cut lift market

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Share prices in London reached record highs on the day after the Chancellor's autumn statement. However, the rise of 9.6 to 924.3 in the FT 30-share index appears to have owed more to hopes of base rate cuts and the miners' drift back to work.

The statement does not appear to have had a big impact on gilts. Prices were down 1/4 on the day, despite a rise of 0.3 in the sterling index to 76.8. New fears over the US federal deficit sent gilts down.

The view of most City economists on the statement is that, while it was generally unsurprising, the Chancellor was optimistic on the economy and the ability to control spending.

Mr Malcolm Roberts, chief economist at Lloyds & Co., said: "We believe the Chancellor will overshoot the new programme forecasts by at least £3 billion, since many of the individual programmes look impossible to achieve and the background assumptions on growth and unemployment are unrealistic."

Mr Mike Osborne, of Griverson Grant notes, that the Treasury has been forced to concede £1.9 billion to other departments, as indicated by a £0.75 billion reduction in the reserve, £0.5 billion in extra asset sales, £0.4 billion in extra council house sales and £0.3 billion upward revision in the public spending target from £131.7 billion to £132 billion.

However, Mr Osborne cites targets for local authorities and nationalized industries as being very tight, and expects the Chancellor to raise his PSBR target for 1985-86 from £7 billion to £8 billion in the Budget.

Hoare Govett is also slightly sceptical about the PSBR target for 1985-86, expecting £7.5 billion.

Mr Gavyn Davies, of Simon & Coates, says that while the figures in the statement are "massaged," this should not worry financial markets. He argues that in some areas, notably debt interest and the national income adjustment, the overall public spending projections could be too high.

White House sees higher deficits

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Leading Reagan Administration officials meeting this week to prepare the President's new budget have leaked sensitive information to the press that the federal deficits are much higher than official forecasts and could total more than \$190 billion for the next three years.

The new forecasts were presented to a working group meeting this week to shape the Administration's fiscal policies amid growing concern that prospects for substantive action to reduce the deficits are dim.

Disclosure of the new forecasts puts strong political pressure on Mr Reagan who stated repeatedly during his re-election campaign that tax increases proposed by Democrats were unnecessary because the deficits were dropping due to strong US economic growth.

Earlier, the Administration said the deficits this year would drop to \$172 billion from an earlier forecast of \$179 billion and that it would decline eventually to \$161 billion by 1989.

But administration officials now say that under current policies, given the sharp reduction in the United States growth which slows to 2.7 per cent in the third quarter, the deficits would be sharply higher, putting renewed upward pressure on interest rates and perhaps aborting the recovery altogether.

This message comes when the United States Federal Reserve Board, chaired by Mr Paul Volcker, has taken steps to ease monetary policy to bring down



Paul Volcker: Fed easing monetary policy

interest rates in order to stimulate the flagging economy. The Fed's decision to ease credit controls at a meeting on October 2 was disclosed late last week when the minutes of the meeting were made public.

Wall Street analysts said, however, that they did not believe the central bank had taken additional steps to ease controls at a subsequent meeting. "A growing number of people are beginning to feel that despite additional declaration in the economy, the Fed has done all it is going to do for now, indicating stabilizing interest rates," Mr Dan Holland, an assistant vice-president of the Discount Corporation, said.

The combination of rising deficits, slowing growth, and stabilizing interest rates at still high levels, presents the Administration with both a fiscal and political dilemma.

Strategic ore stock run down

By Michael Prest

Public spending cuts have forced the Government to dispose of the strategic mineral stockpile which it began to build up less than two years ago. Running down reserves of materials vital to British industry represents a reversal of policy reached in the wake of the Falklands conflict.

Mr David Trippier, under-secretary of state at the Department of Trade and Industry, when answering a parliamentary question put by Mr Tim Eggar, Conservative MP for Enfield North, said: "The Government has decided that it is no longer necessary to hold a mineral stockpile and will be disposing of it over the next few years."

In February last year the Government announced it would buy certain minerals considered to be vital to industry and whose supply was vulnerable to disruption. The DTI said yesterday that £40m had been spent on raw materials.

A Department spokesman said yesterday: "Nothing has changed, but the Government has decided it is no longer necessary bearing in mind the pressure on the Department's expenditure."

Metal trade officials said the Government had bought about three months' supply of ferro-vanadium, ferro-chrome, manganese, cobalt and tantalum. The first three are believed mainly to have been supplied by South Africa. These stockpiles were stored on the premises of Johnson Firth Brown, steelmakers, in Sheffield.

£1bn flows to societies

Building society net inflows reached a monthly record during October, usually a good month, topping £1 billion for the first time: £1.12 billion was taken against the previous record of £968m last October.

Mortgage demand rose to £2 billion, against £1.9 billion in September, with the number of mortgages promised also rising. The record net receipts in October played a large part in the societies' recent decision to cut their interest rates.

The societies expect inflows of roughly £600 million this month.

The Bristol & West building society and the Trustee Savings Bank both cut mortgage rates by one per cent point yesterday. The new Bristol & West rate is 11.75 and the TSBS's is 12 (a real annual rate of 12.8).

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1183.1 up 11.0 (high: 1188.1; low: 1175.2)
FT Index: 924.3 up 9.6
FT All Share Index: 1213.66 down 5.53
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 11,285.16 up 30.04

CURRENCIES

STERLING
Index 76.8 up 0.3 (range 76.9-76.7)
\$1.2740 up 0.0050
DM 3.7425 up 0.0050
FF 11.4750 up 0.01
Yen 308.00 up 0.75
Dollar 137.8 down 0.6
DM 2.9365 down 0.0105
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.2725
Dollar DM 3.7425
INTERNATIONAL
ECU £0.596572
SDR £0.800748

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 10
Finance houses base rate 1.1
Discount market loans week fixed 10 1/2-10
3 month interbank 9 1/2-9 3/4
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 9 1/2-9 3/4
3 month DM 5 1/2-5 3/4
3 month FF 11 1/2-11
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.75
Fed funds 9 1/2
Treasury long bond 100%-100 1/2
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period October 3 to November 6, 1984, inclusive: 10.816 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$350 pm \$350.45
close \$349.50-350.00 (£274.50)
New York (latest): \$349.00
Kruggerand (per cent):
\$360.361.50 (£282.50-283.50)
Sovereigns (new):
\$82-83.50 (£64.50-65.25)
*Excludes VAT

NEWS IN BRIEF

Burton staff incentives rise 42%

High Street clothes retailer Burton Group made pretax profits of £56.4 million in the year to September 1, 1984, against £39.1 million in 1983-3. The chairman, Mr Ralph Halpern, received salary and profit-related incentives of £348,000 against £199,000 in 1983, a 75 per cent increase. Directors' salaries rose 26.5 per cent.

Tempos, page 18

De La Rue is paying an interim dividend of 8.25p, up 25 per cent, after pretax profits rose from £14.2 million to £17.7 million for the six months to September 30, 1984.

Tempos, page 18

Secombe Marshall & Campion is paying an unchanged dividend of 6p. Trading in the first half of the year, to October 31, has been satisfactory.

Tempos, page 18

Oxford Instruments is paying an interim dividend of 0.4p for the six months to September 30, after pretax profits rose from £1.8 million to £2.3 million.

Tempos, page 18

End to liability for unpaid NI

A concerted lobby by the Institute of Directors, the Chambers of Commerce and other business groups has finally persuaded the Department of Health and Social Security to give up its right to make directors of failed companies personally liable for unpaid National Insurance contributions.

Mr Anthony Newton, the

Minister for Social Security, has said that Section 152(4) of the 1975 Social Security Act will be repealed "as soon as the opportunity arises" and that, in the meantime, the department will take no further action.

The power to override limited liability came to the fore during discussion of the Government's proposals to improve insolvency law and

punish rogue directors.

It was said that the department's power, often applied with rigour even to non-executive directors or those who left a board before a company collapsed, was a deterrent to recruiting new blood, or company doctors, to help ailing companies and could result in disproportionate hardship for directors.

The corporation says that because of its statutory obligation it would be too risky to base plans on the basis of gas that may or may not be available.

It says: "What would be at stake would be the security of gas supplies to British homes and businesses. British Gas cannot gamble with its customers' supplies."

There is also a broad consensus on the prospects for rising gas demand for the rest of the 1980s and for a continuing high level of gas sales in the 1990s, even after efforts to conserve energy have been taken into account.

British Gas fights off critics and insists on Norway supply

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

British Gas remains convinced that it will need supplies from the Sleipner field in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea to meet demand from its domestic and industrial users in the 1990s.

At the same time it is repeating its opposition to exports of gas from the British sector ever being allowed by the Government.

British Gas, in a detailed analysis of gas available in the North Sea, has attempted to answer its critics who have suggested that enough gas is available in the British sector to meet its needs.

The corporation has been criticized by the Treasury for its proposed £20 billion contract with the Norwegian state oil company, Statoil, on the grounds of the effect it will have on the balance of payments.

Sectors of the oil industry have criticized the deal, saying that it will threaten the viability

Filling the Supply/Demand Gap

(million cubic feet a day)

UK fields under negotiation Other UK fields Sleipner

Total uncontracted requirement

1980 1985 2000

1200 1400 2000

200 1000 1200

1400 2000 2000

Land Securities

Interim Results

The unaudited consolidated revenue account for the six months ended 30th September 1984 shows:-

Year to 31.3.84	£m	Six months to 30.9.84	£m	Six months to 30.9.83	£m
	116.1		63.6		56.7
	12.6		5.7		5.9
	6.4		1.5		3.7
	2.6		7		1.8
	137.7		71.5		68.1
	8.9		4.6		4.4
	15.0		7.1		6.9
	10.1		4.8		5.1
	34.0		16.5		16.4
	103.7		55.0		51.7
	8		—		4
	17.1		8.2		8.6
	1.8		1.4		9
	19.7		9.6		9.9
	84.0		45.4		41.8
	33.3		20.4		21.7
	50.7		25.0		20.1
	10.23p		4.96p		4.05p

Note 1: As at 30.9.84 the 10% Convertible Unsecured Loan Stock had been converted in full into ordinary shares.

Note 2: The taxation charge for the six months period is computed at the standard rate of 45% (1983: 52%) whereas the charge for the year will reflect relief arising on expenditure on properties and other adjustments. Mainly as a consequence of changes in taxation allowances, the relationship between the effective and standard rates of tax for the year will be closer than in the previous year.

Note 3: The earnings per ordinary share for the six months to 30.9.83 have been adjusted to reflect the two for five capitalisation issue authorised in November 1983.

The Directors have declared an interim dividend of 2.6p per share which, together with the related tax credit, is equivalent to 3.714p. In November 1983 the interim dividend declared, after the adjustment to reflect the two for five capitalisation issue authorised later that month, was 2.357p per share, equivalent to 3.367p including the tax credit. The dividend which, excluding advance corporation tax, will absorb £13.1m (1983: £11.7m) will be paid on 17th December 1984 to shareholders registered on 22nd November 1984.

The figures for the year to 31st March 1984 are abridged from the Group's full accounts to that date which received an unqualified auditors' report and have been filed with the Registrar of Companies.

LAND SECURITIES PLC

Devonshire House, Piccadilly, London W1X 6BT

BAe flies against the trend with a dip

cham, Howard Johnson, was at last nearing completion.

The high sales could eliminate imports, borrowing and save the group with ammunition to mount a significant acquisition in this country. One suggestion going the rounds is that it wants to expand its brewing operations and could well bid for one of the two Ellerman Lines breweries - J. W. Cameron and Tollemache and Cobbold Breweries.

For the year ended last September, One to shoot for this profit level is Fender and Boyle.

The group's brasserie has recently cut their forecast to, in some cases, as low as £325 million. At one time the City was going for about £370 million.

Strong & Fisher, the tannery and leather goods group, took a keen interest in the bid, said the Turkish businessman and chairman of Polly Peck, sold his 24.9

Transactions totalled 3,689.
Total number of UK and Irish
stocks traded were 179.9
million.

RECENT ISSUES		Closing Price	Paul Michael L'warr 5p Ord (30s)
Addison Comen 2p Ord (11s)	166½	Plastree 10p Ord (70s)	Second Markets Inv 5p Ord (10)
Ashia Holdings 2p Ord (140s)	144½	Sharex Org stores 10p Ord (140s)	128
Appledore A & P 10p Ord (87)	85½	Stone International 20p Ord (125)	1
Breakmate 10p Ord (100s)	102	T & S Stores 5p Ord (8s)	1
Brix Bloodstock Ag 25p Ord (165s)	233-2	Trade Promotion 10p Ord (17s)	1

General Cap	247	..	4.3	2.9	..
General	147	..	2.8	2.9	..
Invest	191	..	2.4	2.7	..
Invest Ind	73	..	12.4	16.5	..
Corporate	119	..	1.5	2.1	..
Noncorporate	83	..	1.6	1.1	..
Total	81	..	2.5	2.5	..
Domestic Equity	96	..	1.9	1.9	..
	734	..	3.6	2.7	..

to Ordinary shareholders	11.99s	8.70s	25.26s
Earnings per Ordinary share	31.5p	22.9p	61.1p

NOTES:
The abridged profit and loss account for the year ended 31 March 1984 is an extract from the latest published audited accounts which have been delivered to the Registrar of Companies.

	Close	Close
7V	£107.65	106.50
n	£110.50	109.45
ar	£113.80	112.75
ay	£117.20	115.55
y	£119.20	-
o	£98.50	97.55

Total lots traded
Sheet B: 138
Index: 22

222	102	English Int	218	0	+2	1,816	4.4	--	346	303	New Court
95	82	English Sept	85	0	+2	1,889	3.8	--	75	59	New Eastern Ct
92	80	English NY	83	0	--	2.3	2.5	--	170	139	1928
84	80	F & C Alliance	85	0	+1	2.3	2.6	--	43	34	Handing the SS
187	117	FAC Pacific	140	+2	5,006	3.6	--	284	222	New Tokyo	
168	162	Family	180	--	0.4	5.2	--	238	198	Wm Anderson, Sac	
234	134	First Coast Am	235	--	6,029	3.7	--	250	202	Wm Ben Anderson	
245	170	First US Am	180	0	+10	5.7	6.8	--	260	208	Wm Ben Am
448	262	Frontier American	404	--	6.1	1.6	--	125	97	Outchuk	

..	78.9	3.9	..	273	211	T
+2	84.0	0.5	..	140	120	T
..	7.9	4.8	..	102	99	T
+1	3.2	3.1	..	81	87	T
+1	169	163	T
..	4.8	1.7	..	57	73	U
..	0.7	0.8	..	76	52	W
..	7.7	3.1	W
+1	1.7	1.0	..	136	107	W
..

General Cap	247	..	4.3	2.9	..
General	147	..	2.8	2.9	..
Invest	191	..	2.4	2.7	..
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APPOINTMENTS

Yarrow to head Clydesdale

Clydesdale Bank: Sir Eric Yarrow will succeed Sir Robert Fairbairn as chairman with effect from April 17 1985. Mr William D. Coats will become joint deputy chairman from that day.

Legal & General: Mr K. H. M. Dixon has been appointed a director, he is also Chairman of Rowntree Macintosh Plc.

Eso: Mr C. A. Potter has become the treasurer. He succeeds Mr W. G. Todd, who has moved to the United States. F & C Pacific Investment Trust: Sir Hugh Cortazzi recently British Ambassador to Japan, has now been made a director.

The De La Rue Company: Mr J. D. Salmon, managing director of Crosfield Electronics Division, has been elected to board.

Sketchley: Mr Eric Colwell has become a non-executive director.

Willis Faber & Dumas (UK): Mr William Downey has become an executive director. He was previously a main board director of Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Thompson Clive & Partners: Mr Stephen Black and Mr Robin Meyer have joined the board.

Rayford Supreme Holdings: Mr Colin Davies has been appointed finance director and deputy managing director, from January 1, 1985.

Granada Television: Prof. Robert Whelan, vice-chancellor of Liverpool University, has joined the board as a non-executive director.

The Institute of London Underwriters: Mr Bernard Curtis, general manager and secretary, will retire of January 31, 1985. He will be succeeded by Mr Peter Worsfold.

Stephenson Harwood: Mr R. H. Aydon and Mr P. W. U. Corbett have become partners.

Middle East Bank: Mr Majid Al Fattaim succeeds Dr M. Yassar El Bitar as chief executive.

Jonas Woodhead & Sons: Mr J. A. Harrop has been appointed managing director and chief executive in place of Mr E. S. Simpson, who continues as chairman. Mr A. J. Smith has been promoted to deputy managing director.

Vickers Shipbuilding & Engineering: Mr George Bowmer has been made director of engineering sales and marketing.

International Military Services: Mr Keith Walley has been appointed a director and will succeed Sir John Cuckney as chairman next May.

ECONOMIC COMMENTARY

Missed opportunity to spread wealth

By Graham Searjeant

The Government's plans to reform pensions law and taxation are moving in different directions

The mention of occupational pensions is more likely to induce cataplexy in the average policymaker than to set the blood racing. That makes it all the more surprising that pension reform has reached the top of the action tray for at least two government departments. It may, however, explain why a whole variety of economic tests have been applied to pension reform, but applied so randomly, in response to different pressures without any sense of central coordination that they are likely to conflict with each other, solve few problems, and create more. In the process, they will miss an historic opportunity for the Government to further one of its central philosophical aims: to spread individual wealth.

The reform movement gathered pace with the investigations set in train by Mr Norman Fowler, the Social Services Secretary. They stemmed from the complaint, borne of inflation, that most pensionable employees who changed jobs during their careers, leaving a pension frozen in money terms behind them, lost much of the benefit of their pension savings in order to subsidize the dwindling minority who followed the old ideal that spawned the pensions movement and stayed with the same company for most of their working lives.

As the investigation widened, it encompassed the need to promote labour mobility and the opportunity to promote competition for savings and consumer choice. It also toyed with the somewhat theoretical idea that those in control of their own savings would take more risk and invest more in small businesses than anonymous, risk-averse pension fund institutions, and that a more direct individual link with savings returns would make people more aware of the value of profit and the perils of inflation.

Round at the Treasury, meanwhile, Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, was applying a quite different set of tests, based on his commendable programme to reform the tax

system by reducing exemptions to tax, so that he can spread the load and cut tax rates within any given overall level of taxation.

He has already been through this exercise on corporation tax. He is now pondering VAT and started on income tax in this year's Budget by abolishing relief on life assurance premiums.

His economic rationale is to achieve fiscal neutrality between different forms of saving (as well as spending), to avoid tax distorting people's behaviour. Like Mr Fowler, however, he is anxious that pension provision should be taken care of as far as possible in the private sector to minimize the share of government revenue and spending in the national income.

Both, however, have ignored the most fundamental drawback of occupational pensions. They induce millions to channel their savings into the one form that denies the spread of wealth and freezes the concentration of wealth in the hands of the few.

Mr Fowler's Pensions Bill is about to be published. Even on its limited brief it is likely to prove a disappointing compromise. Since the Government wishes to encourage private pensions, it will ignore the

Attempt to achieve fiscal neutrality between different forms of savings

fundamental problems inherent in the company pensions system for those who move jobs, regardless of the rate of inflation. It will make little impact on the losses from inflation suffered by so-called "early leavers", who leave a deferred pension, before the end of the century.

Unless actuaries come up with better guidelines than presently seems likely, it will do little to solve mobility problems through pensions transfer. Even the limited proposals to allow employees to opt out of the system in favour of personal portable pensions have been left out of this year's Bill.

As the gathering pensions industry lobby has already made clear, Mr Lawson also faces a morass. He was initially struck by an Inland Revenue

Estimated costs of pension reliefs 1983-84

	£m
Tax relief for employees' contributions	1,100
Tax relief for employees on employers' contributions	1,100
Exemption of pension funds investment income (assuming tax at 30 per cent)	2,250
Exemption of pension funds capital gains	n.a.
Exemption of lump sum	660
Total of these reliefs	5,100
Less: Tax yield from pensions in payment	1,850
Net cost of pension reliefs	3,250

Source: Board of Inland Revenue.

paper in September 1983 which estimated that various tax reliefs on occupational pension schemes cost the Exchequer more than £5 billion gross in 1983-84, a figure that can only have grown since.

As a recent analysis by the Institute of Fiscal Studies (financed by the National Association of Pension Funds) points out, any significant reform will lead to horrible fiscal complexities; not least because the Government itself pays out so many unfunded pensions. The effects on Treasury cash flow are, to say the least, unpredictable. The Chancellor could certainly not net £5 billion and will not try to grab back all the reliefs. He must choose.

The greatest distortion to saving habits is that pension contributions are tax deductible - incidentally costing £2.2 billion of tax on the Revenue estimate. The IFS points out that it would be an unacceptable extension of double taxation to tax both contributions and, as at present, pensions in payment, which bring in £1.9 billion. For pensions include a big element of capital repayment and to tax them at both ends would make them a worse bet, from a tax point of view, than putting savings under the mattress. Separating out the capital repayment would be hopelessly complex.

The three-generation continuum of pension schemes ensures that a switch from taxing pensions to taxing contributions, while best resolving distortions of savings patterns, would cause so much chaos and unfairness between scheme members that existing schemes would have to be closed and new ones opened for future contributions - assuming employers thought it worthwhile.

So Mr Lawson appears to have focused on two other reliefs. The tax-free status of pension funds' investment income, invoiced at a tempting

£2.3 billion without counting capital gains, is already the subject of a concerted pension industry lobby. That stresses the extent to which abolition would tax industry by requiring more contributions, unless most of the benefits of private, contracted-out pensions were to be eliminated. It could also savage the Government's market for gilt-edged securities and, if contributions were raised, lead to extra tax reliefs that could, in the short-term, lead to an immediate fall in Treasury revenues.

The sitting duck among pension reliefs, unprotected by big defensive guns, is the £650 million tax cost of allowing people to take up to 1½ times their salary out of their pension fund as a tax-free lump sum when they retire. Discouraging this would actually help pension fund cash flow.

Measures may seem logical individually but fail to grasp true need for reform

The pension industry would not mind. The IFS study even described taxing lump sums as "a desirable simplification of pension fund taxation". This, then, is the insiders' favourite for the Chancellor's axe. Yet the lump sum on retirement is the element in pensions that truly serves to spread wealth.

We are faced, therefore, with a series of measures that may seem logical individually, but fail to grasp the true need for pension reform, or understand the opportunity being missed.

Home ownership, usually the biggest avenue for saving, has long enjoyed a high priority in Government thinking. Its latest manifestation, the sale of council houses, may prove an historic long-term measure to better the unequal distribution of wealth.

After house purchase, occupational pensions are by far the most important form of long-term saving for million (especially if employers' contributions are included). Adding in the notional capital value of pensions on retirement would eventually change the distribution of wealth as radically as the growth of mass home ownership. Yet pension rights are not wealth. You cannot control them, transfer them or bequeath them.

In effect, pension rights suffer 100 per cent inheritance tax, so that the average person whose wealth might consist in equal parts of a house and pension rights, faces a 50 per cent-plus inheritance tax at least as much as the average tax-paying millionaire and his heirs might expect to pay. Pensions deter the long-term spread of wealth.

There is an analogy here with council housing. Both started and continue to be organized with the noblest of motives. Both have grown to help millions lead a decent and far more comfortable life, bringing up a family and in retirement.

Yet the growth in average incomes has subtly and gradually turned council housing, and is now changing occupational pensions, into a barrier to further social equality, freedom and family development.

Such thoughts did not figure in the agonized technical debate over personal portable pensions - which suffer the same drawback. Indeed, the need to convert savings into a pension annuity at an arbitrary date can be a severe disadvantage of the purer forms of personal pensions. If people could simply receive the accumulated savings on retirement, they could choose their own moment to buy a pension, or choose instead to preserve their capital to some degree, suffering a penalty of perhaps one quarter to one third of net income for the privilege.

The lump sum that can now be taken on retirement, was encouraged by the general approval of additional voluntary pension contributions that emerged from Mr Fowler's debate. It represents the important exception to these strictures. So, if it is strange for this Government to give so much tax incentive to the form of saving that contributes least to the long-term spread of wealth, it seems even stranger that the Chancellor should be eying the lump sum, the part of pension wealth that can be transmitted, as his first target for removing concessions.

Unilever profit rise disappoints market

Third quarter pre-tax profits of Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch soaps to foods giant, rose from £215m to £233m on a turnover up from £3.3 billion to £3.7 billion.

The figures bring pre-tax profits for the first nine months of this year to £674m against £596m last time. In the stock market, the shares dropped 15p to £10.60.

Profits from detergents, personal products and frozen foods in the third quarter were little changed. While the results of edible fats and ice cream were down on last year, other foods and drinks continued to show substantial gains.

Animal feeds companies were adversely affected by European Community measures to reduce milk production.

Chemicals and packaging both reported improved profits.

In brief

● LONDON ENTERTAINMENT: Dividend 2.12p (1.92p) for the year to August 31. Pre-tax profit £422.117 (£220.041). Tax £126.778 (£68.034). Extraordinary credit £70,000 (nil). Earnings per share 8.04p (4.15p).

● AMBROSE INVESTMENT TRUST: Interim dividend 3p (same) for six months to September 30. Gross revenue £525,100 (£446,398). Expenses £52,235 (£39,566). Pre-tax profit £472,865 (£406,832). Tax £141,881 (£122,318). Earnings per share 4.6p (3.99p). Net asset value per capital share 302.81p (301.06p at March 31), and 32.87p per income share (31.23p at March 31).

● GEI INTERNATIONAL: Results for six months to September 30. Interim dividend 1.94p (1.76p). Figures in £000. Turnover 32,319 (£29,806). Pre-tax profit 1,309 (£825). Tax 613 (£386). Earnings per share 2p (1.2p). The directors have decided to increase the interim dividend. The balance sheet remains strong with adequate cash resources. Shares 84 up 5.

● LAND SECURITIES: Results for six months to September 30. Interim dividend 2.6p (2.35p adjusted). (Figures in pounds millions). Total income 71.4 (£41.8) after ground rents payable 4.6 (£4.4). Other property outgoings 1.1 (£0.9). Administrative expenses 4.8 (£5.1) and interest payable 9.6 (£9.9). Tax 20.4 (£11.7). Earnings per share 4.9p (4.05p) adjusted. Shares unchanged.

● A. GOLDBERG & SONS: Results for 26 weeks to September 29. Interim dividend 0.59p (1.294p) payable on February 18. Amount of final will be reviewed when the results of the full year are known. (Figures in £000).

Turnover 17,099 (£18,120) excluding VAT. Pre-tax loss 762 (profit 353) after interest on bank borrowings 1,308 (£1,115) and depreciation 597 (£481). Tax credit 267 (change 127). Loss per share 2.8p (profit 1.3p). Shares 59 down 2.

● OXFORD INSTRUMENTS GROUP: Results for 37 weeks to September 23, 1983. Interim dividend 0.4p (nil), payable on April 1, 1985. (Figures in £000). Turnover 48,469 (£48,603). Gross profit 9,480 (£9,168). Pre-tax profit 4,035 (£3,659) after administrative expenses 4,503 (£4,114) and interest payable 942 (£1,395). Tax 1,447 (£862). Minority interest 9 (£6). Earnings per share 14.9p (£17.8p). Shares 129 down 9p.

● PACIFIC SALES ORGANIZATION: The chairman Mr Leo Kalisch, told the annual meeting that October was a record month for both sales and profits in the 25-year history of the company. He said he was now confident that the forecast made at the time of flotation of £390,000 profit before tax for the year to June 30 1985 will be exceeded.

● DOUBLE EAGLE: The acquisition of Chessminster by the Canadian company, Double Eagle Technology, has been completed. Former Chessminster shareholders now own 60.6 per cent of the enlarged share capital of Double Eagle Technology. The remaining formalities are now being finalized in Vancouver. The board of Chessminster has confirmed that there is no reason to alter the previous profits forecast of not less than £322,000 before taxation for the year to March 31, 1985.

● GRASEBY DYNAMICS: The leading defence contractor in the Cambridge Electronic Industries group, has won a contract for initial production worth more than £14m to supply the Ministry of Defence with the chemical agent monitor Cam.

● SCOTTISH NATIONAL TRUST: Final 2.95p, making 4.25p total (£3.90p) for the year to Sept. 30. (Figures in £000). Gross revenue 6,868 (£5,908). Tax 1,572 (£1,433). ESP 4.74p (£4.31p).

● MINISTER ASSETS: The scheme of arrangement and reconstruction of Minister Assets has now been completed. Since details of the petroleum interest were sent to shareholders of Minister Assets on Sept. 14, the report by Energy Resource Consultants has been updated and, in particular, contains a revised estimate of the group's technical petroleum reserves.

● CH INDUSTRIALS and Petrofina (UK) formed Buckingham Coatings to be equally owned. It will manufacture a range of coatings and paints for the marketing divisions of both partners in a new factory under construction. Production is expected to start by early 1986.

Another record year for Burton

Pre-tax profit £56.4m

- ★ Pre-tax profit up by 44% to £56.4m.
- ★ Sales up by £117m to £416m with market share over 5%.
- ★ Continued progress in meeting the lifestyle needs of major segments of the clothing market.
- ★ Dividend up from 5.0p to 6.5p.
- ★ 166 new trading outlets.
- ★ Employment up by 2000.
- ★ £67m capital investment to sustain growth in market share.
- ★ Growth record maintained by creative and imaginative management.
- ★ Success rewards 10,500 employees at all levels in performance related incentives of £6.8m.
- ★ Sales value of British goods up by £80m.
- ★ New initiative to encourage British fashion industry and employment.

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 5. The fifth step is to implement the solution.
 6. The sixth step is to evaluate the solution.
 7. The seventh step is to monitor the solution.
 8. The eighth step is to maintain the solution.
 9. The ninth step is to improve the solution.
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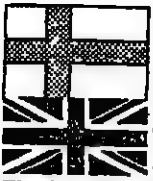
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A SPECIAL REPORT

Finland

In the first visit by a Finnish head of state for 15 years, President Mauno Koivisto arrived in Britain yesterday. This Special Report examines his country's highly successful brand of neutrality, its role in East-West relations, and an economy whose growth rate exceeds even that of Japan.

Richard Owen reports from Helsinki.



"President Koivisto's visit to London shows that the British still have a special place in Finland's view of the world", one Finnish diplomat remarked recently. "We may be perched on the edge of the Soviet Union, but we also have vital links with the West."

Finland's highly successful brand of neutrality is symbolized by its policy of buying weapons for Finnish defence: one-third comes from Russia, one-third from neutral countries or Finland's own arms industries, and one-third from the West. Its trading policy reflects a similar balancing act.

Regrettably, Britain is no longer Finland's main trading partner, as it was before the Second World War. Exports to Britain now only account for some ten per cent of Finland's foreign trade, and Britain has slipped badly to fourth place in the league of Finnish trading partners, after the Soviet Union, Sweden and West Germany.

But Britain's special place in Finnish historical memories is more than a myth, and Mr Koivisto's four-day visit - his first to Britain since becoming president in January 1982 - should give a boost to bi-lateral trade, provided British and Finnish businessmen are ready to capitalize on the political impetus provided by the trip.

However, it is still the Soviet Union which preoccupies Finnish foreign policy makers most. President Koivisto has made no fewer than seven trips to Moscow since he was elected, the last in April this year. The Finnish Prime Minister, Kalevi Sorsa, was in Moscow in September, followed closely by Paavo Vayrynen, the Finnish Foreign Minister, in October. For that matter Kremlin leaders call in on Helsinki from time to time with the same purpose: to

show that just as the Kremlin had nothing to fear from the change of leadership in Helsinki three years ago, Finland has nothing to fear from manoeuvres in Moscow.

Mr Grigory Romanov, a powerful contender for the Soviet leadership at 62, and well known in Finland for his long years as party boss in nearby Leningrad, appeared in Helsinki in October to attend celebrations marking the fortieth anniversary of the Armistice signing.

The view in Helsinki is that when most of the East is at daggers drawn with most of the West, Soviet-Finnish relations provide the Russians with a model example of good neighbourliness, continuity and mutual reassurance. Or as Mr Vayrynen put it to *The Times*: "President Koivisto has continued the Kekkonen line in a very reliable way."

Perhaps knowing that the Russians had preferred other candidates in the 1982 Presidential elections, Mr Koivisto made a point of getting to know Mr Andropov (tactfully glossing over Andropov's wartime service against Finland in Karelia), and also became the first foreign leader to meet Mr Chernomir after Andropov's death in February this year.

The 1948 Soviet-Finnish treaty of friendship and cooperation has been extended to the year 2003, and on the eve of the Chernomir-Koivisto talks in April, Moscow marked the 36th anniversary of the treaty by telling Helsinki that fruitful cooperation was developing dynamically on the basis of mutual confidence and sincere friendship.

During Mr Sorsa's visit to Moscow in September a new five-year trade agreement worth over 30 billion dollars was signed. As in previous agreements, Soviet raw materials are to be exchanged for Finnish consumer and capital goods. But this time exports of Soviet



The prospects for East-West relations are not so promising as many in the West would be very happy to believe. In the West any sign is interpreted as a sign that we are now going to have new discussions of crucial importance about arms reduction and things like that . . .

President Koivisto

A full interview on page 23

On and off duty: President Koivisto the statesman and right, the sportsman, playing volleyball, his favourite recreation.

machinery to Finland are to double in value to one and a half billion dollars.

Finland's imports of Soviet crude oil are set at 9 million tonnes, a rise of one million tonnes, quite apart from Soviet oil bought for re-export by the Finns.

Shipping, a mainstay of Finnish foreign trade, will account for three billion dollars worth of exports, and supplies of Finnish electronic goods are to increase ten times. The healthy state of trade is also symbolised by a huge contract worth 160 million dollars for the construction of a pulp and paper plant at Vyyburg situated in former Finnish territory, 60 kilometres from the present border.

The Finnish company Finn-Stroi will also build a new residential area for Soviet inhabitants, with completion of the total project due in 1988. Finn-Stroi's previous projects include a one billion dollar mining complex at Kostomuksho.

There are occasional ripples on the surface of this apparently exemplary relationship. Many Finns were irritated by Moscow's vocal support for the minority Stalinist wing of the Finnish Communist Party during the crucial party conference last May, although in the end Moscow's interference was counter-productive, since the moderate Euro-Communist wing of the party won a famous victory and it fell to Mr Romanov in October to try and stop the Communist Party falling apart altogether by calling for unity and internal discipline.

Both Helsinki and Moscow are also concerned at occasional attempts to smuggle religious literature into the Soviet Union. In one case earlier this year, a plot to smuggle bibles across the border was foiled by the Finns. Such incidents give rise to the charge that Helsinki goes to excessive lengths to appease the Kremlin in order to preserve Finnish independence and a western way of life.

The Finns firmly reject this, pointing out that they know best how to live with the Russians, that both sides learned hard lessons in the Winter War and the Continuation War, and that Finland has since increased its independence from Russia rather than the reverse. On the other hand the Soviet Finnish border agreement of 1960 is usually interpreted by Russians to mean that Finland immediately hands back would-be defectors to the Russians, a point reinforced when an Estonian official defected to Sweden rather than Finland earlier this year.

The Finns themselves deny that they hand back escaping Russians, but Amnesty International maintains that defectors are sent back before they have a chance to apply for political asylum. Because of its delicate political position, Finland is hypersensitive to any strain in East-West relations, including present tensions over the deployment of new nuclear weapons in West Europe and the breakdown of arms talks in Geneva. Although Finnish leaders said at first that cruise missiles were a political rather than military problem, and posed no threat to Finnish security, the Russians have made it crystal clear that they expect Finland to be able to intercept cruise missiles if they are aimed at the Soviet Union via Finnish territory.

This was underlined by the Czech Bohuslav Chmoupek, the Czech foreign minister, when he remarked in Helsinki in October that Nato missiles in Europe were a threat to both communist and non-communist nations, an apparent reference to the fact that cruise could fly through Finnish or Swedish airspace on its way to Soviet targets. In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Vayrynen suggested that while cruise was not a danger to Finland as long as it was land-based, it could become one if deployed in aircraft or submarines, or if a second generation of cruise missiles was developed.



PARTY POLITICS

An end to the old alliances

Is Mauno Koivisto finally emerging from the long shadow cast by Urho Kekkonen? For both Finns and foreigners, President Kekkonen personified the stability of post-war Finnish politics during his 26 years in power. President Koivisto, by contrast, tended initially to keep aloof from domestic politics following his election in January 1982.

A former Social Democrat, Mr Koivisto was elected by a wide cross section of Finns in a poll which cut across party boundaries. Mr Koivisto, moreover, has deliberately stressed the parliamentary rather than presidential aspects of Finland's constitution.

On the whole it is Mr Kalevi Sorsa, the Social Democratic Prime Minister, who tends to dominate Finnish politics, not least because the slow collapse of the Communist Party - the most remarkable turn of events in recent years - has focused

attention on the fortunes of the left.

Mr Sorsa's coalition contains the Social Democrats, the Centre Party, the Rural Party and the Swedish People's Party - but not the Communists, who walked out of the government after a showdown over the budget at the end of 1982.

Mr Sorsa has made it clear that as far as he is concerned the old days of social-democratic-communist alliances are over, and the communists' disastrous performance in the October local elections virtually disqualifies them from government office.

Mr Sorsa's prominence is hardly surprising given that he is now serving his third term as prime minister, a post he first held in 1972 (he has also been Finnish foreign minister). President Koivisto may take more of the initiative if he wins a second term as expected, just as

Continued on Page 22

Helsinki in 1975, and was encouraged by the opening of the Stockholm conference on disarmament and confidence building. But ten years on, very few of the signatories of the Helsinki agreements are still in power.

More to the point, many Nato leaders feel there is nothing much to celebrate, since the Russians have repeatedly violated the Helsinki accords, and the era of détente is well and truly buried.

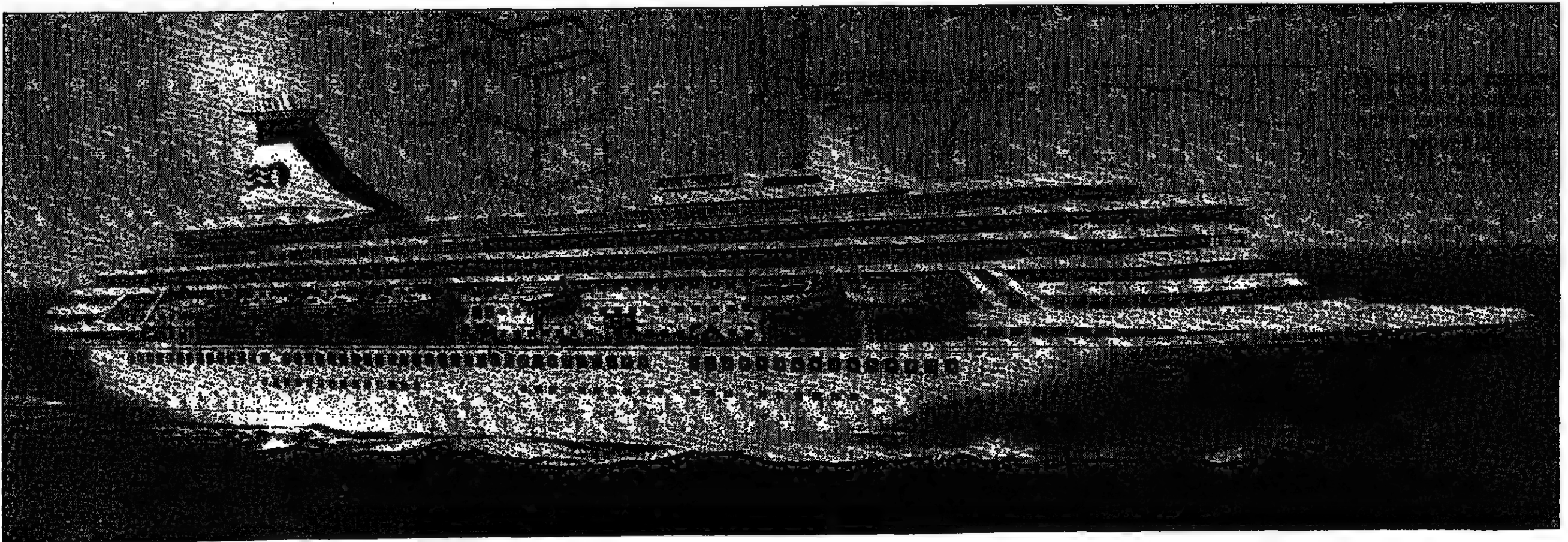
Finland has asked the Nato countries to indicate their attitudes to a 1985 summit, gathering in Helsinki by the end of this month, and the issue will no doubt be raised during Mr Koivisto's talks with Mrs Thatcher.

The Russians and East Europeans are certainly keen, and Mr Romanov gave the summit idea his backing in Helsinki in October. So did Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, who visited Helsinki shortly after Mr Romanov.

But even before next August, could Helsinki serve as a neutral meeting place for Mr Chernomir and President Reagan? The Finns are characteristically cautious about the prospects.

As Mr Vayrynen remarked to *The Times*: "We are always ready to host any meeting likely to contribute to peace, but we can only offer our services if it seems realistic to do so."

A Royal Occasion



Tomorrow, The Royal Princess is to be named by H.R.H. The Princess of Wales in the presence of the President of the Republic of Finland, Dr. Mauno Koivisto and Mrs. Koivisto. This marks a significant stage in the development of trade between Great Britain and Finland. However, for Wärtsilä, building the world's most luxurious cruise ship is only part of the story.

Over the past 150 years, Wärtsilä has grown to become one of the largest companies in Finland with production plants in Sweden, Norway, the United States, Singapore and, of course, Finland. Turnover in 1984 is expected to be £800 million, 80% of which is accounted for by exports and foreign production.

Extensive emphasis on Research and Development together with years of experience have combined to make Wärtsilä the market leader in many specialised areas, such as luxury cruisers, arctic know-how and medium speed diesel engines. Paper finishing machinery, sanitary porcelain and vacuum sewage systems, security systems and hotel keycards are some of Wärtsilä's other key product areas.

Wärtsilä is ready on all levels to meet the challenge of the future. The Royal Princess is an example of our commitment to innovation and success.

We wish the Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Company and all her passengers smooth sailing and bon voyage.

Wärtsilä in the UK.

Wärtsilä is represented and known in the United Kingdom. Many British ships have been fitted with Wärtsilä diesel engines and the diesel division has offices in Slough which provides a full service back-up. British Shipbuilders also manufacture pre-fabricated ships cabins under licence from Wärtsilä.

PEKO commercial laundry machines have been sold in England for the last 15 years and the engineering division is a major supplier of machinery to the UK paper industry. High security ABLOY and VingCard Locks are used in the UK in hotels, ships and for general use. ARABIA tableware and glass, well known for its high quality and design, is sold throughout Britain by Dexam International and Stan Leverick Agencies Ltd.

For further information please contact:

Central Administration, Box 230, SF-00101 Helsinki 10, Pitkanneentie 1, SF-00530 Helsinki 53. Tel: (90) 709 51.

Wärtsilä Diesel UK, Shirley Lodge, 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. Tel: Slough 408 11.

ABLOY Locking Devices Ltd., 313 West End Lane, London NW6 1RU, Great Britain. Tel: (01) 435 7661 2. Telex: 29 1356 abloy g.

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Sampo writes an increasingly large international reinsurance account. Furthermore Sampo owns or is a shareholder in several domestic and foreign insurance and reinsurance companies. In 1983 the Company's retained net premium income was approx. US\$ 223 million and the policyholders' surplus approx. US\$ 257 million.



FINLAND

POLITICS

Old alliances are over

Continued from page 21

Kekkonen came to the fore in 1963. But Mr Sorsa has clocked up more than 2,500 days in the prime minister's chair and is widely known internationally.

The combined strength of the left-wing parties fell in October to below 40 per cent for the first time since the war, with the Social Democrats losing ground as well as the SKDL, the communist front organisation. For opposition politicians such as Ulla Suominen, leader of the conservative National Coalition party, it is self-evident that Finland's economic and social problems derive from policies pursued by a series of centre-left governments, with only a few interludes of bourgeois or non-socialist administrations to redress the balance.

The welfare state and government-directed policies pursued by the left are breaking down, Suominen argues, together with the social consensus on which they are based.

Mr Sorsa is able to point - with justification - to the fact that Finland, once the poor cousin of the Scandinavian countries, is prosperous. But the prime minister agreed in an interview with *The Times* that

the left had dominated Finnish politics as if by natural right, and that socialism must now be re-defined to take account of social change, including the disappearance of entire classes such as small farmers and the urban poor.

Disillusionment with the consensus politics of centre-left governments in Finland is perhaps most clearly reflected in the remarkable rise of the protest vote. In the parliamentary elections of May last year the Social Democrats won 37 seats, or 26.7 per cent of the vote, and the Centre Party 38

seats, or 17.6 per cent. The Conservatives took 44 seats, or 22.1 per cent of the vote, but were not able to pose a convincing challenge to the centre-left coalition.

Instead, maverick Finns gave their support to the Finnish Rural Party led by Mr Pekka Vennamo, which won a remarkable 17 seats and 9.7 per cent of the vote. The Rural Party - or "Vennamo" as it is often called - has been traditionally regarded as the voice of anti-establishment opinion on the margins of Finnish politics, and some would even place it on the lunatic fringe.

The Social Democrats won 24.8 per cent in the local elections, the Conservatives 23 per cent and the Centre Party 20.2 per cent. But the Greens came from nowhere to win almost three per cent, with a much higher proportion in Helsinki itself.

But it is the decline of the Finnish Communist Party which most preoccupies Finnish political observers, and which could alter the shape of Finnish politics altogether.

The Communist Party vote dropped in the local elections to just over 14 per cent, and even that vote was split since some communist factions put up their own lists - an unprecedented move towards open disunity.

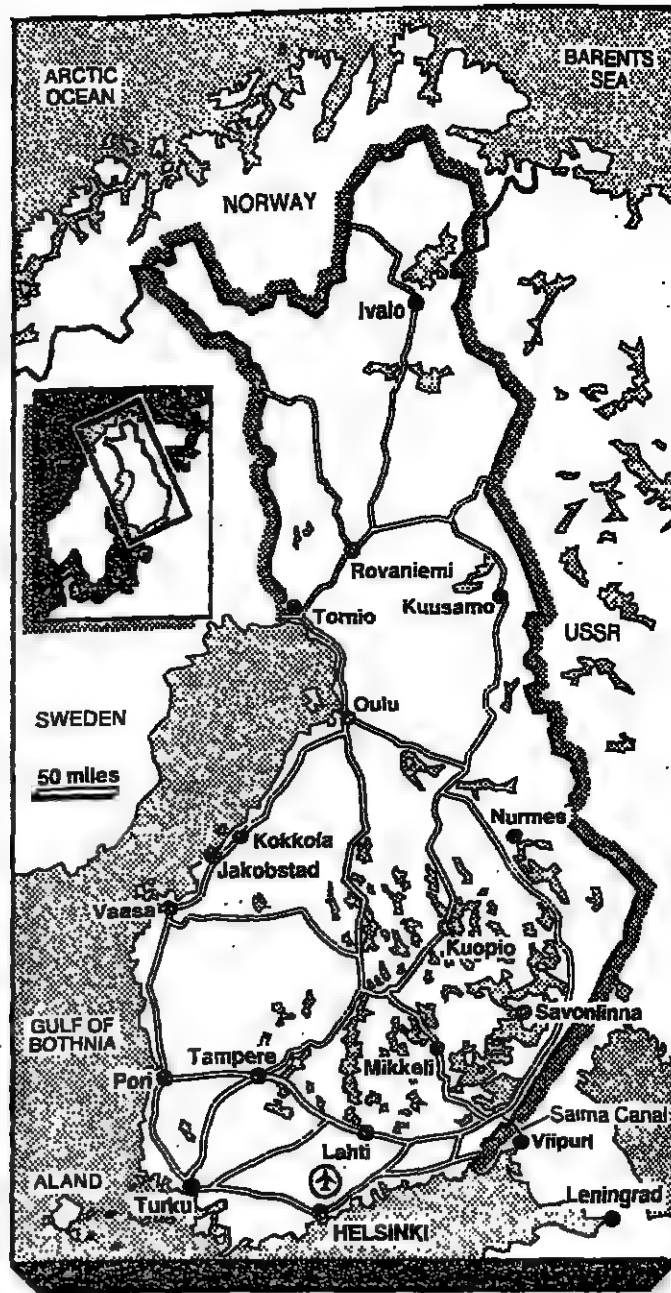
A break-up seems inevitable now that the dominant moderate or Eurocommunist faction has warned the minority of hardline Stalinists that they will be expelled if they persist in toeing the Kremlin line.

The original strength of Finnish communism stemmed less from admiration for neighbouring Russia than from memories of ruthless Finnish capitalism in the 1920s and 1930s, and of treatment of the Reds by the Whites in the Finnish civil war.

But these wellsprings of communist sentiment are running dry, and fratricidal strife between Stalinists and moderates over the past decade has brought the demise of the SKDL close.

The contentious party congress last May saw the defeat of the Stalinists at the hands of the Eurocommunists, who installed 51-year-old Arvo Aalto as party chairman, even though his rival, Mr Jouko Kajarainen, had the personal support of Mr Chernomir.

The Soviet press merely referred to "difficulties" at the May congress, but in fact the



Kremlin was furious, not least because *Pravda* had specifically warned the Finnish communists not to elect someone as lukewarm as Mr Aalto is about hardline Marxism Leninism and loyalty to Moscow.

So far, at least, it looks as if the intervention in October by Mr Gregory Romanov, a hardline Soviet Politburo member, has failed to stop the split and if anything made it worse. Mr Romanov supported a call by the Stalinist wing of the Finnish party for an extraordinary congress to reverse the Eurocommunist victory, but there seems to be little chance of this coming about.

For the time being at any rate the Kremlin is forced to watch from the sidelines, despite Mr Romanov's warning in Helsinki that "any further weakening of the Finnish Communist Party - and above all its disintegration - would have far reaching

consequences for the internal political situation in Finland. It would make it easier for right wing circles to upset the common stand of those who support the foreign policy line of President Koivisto aimed at friendship and co-operation with the Soviet Union.

In practice, however, as Moscow knows full well, continuation of the Koivisto line does not depend on the fortunes of the communists in Finland, and will occur even if the communists are reduced to a marginal force, as is rapidly becoming the case.

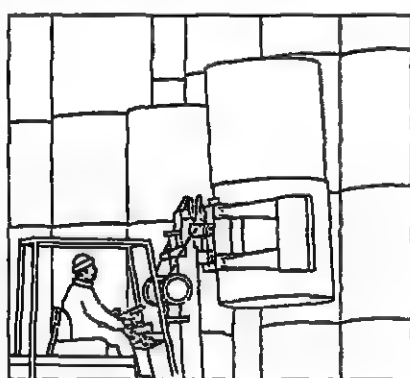
The more interesting political question is whether in future votes lost to the SKDL will go to Mr Sorsa's Social Democrats, the centre party, Vennamo or the Greens and other rising protest groups.

Richard Owen

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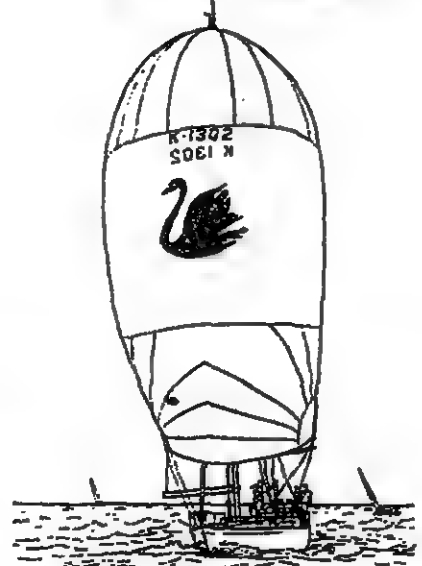
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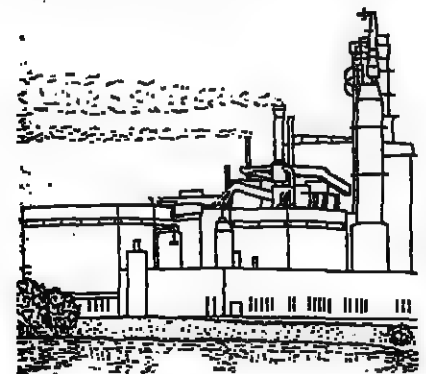
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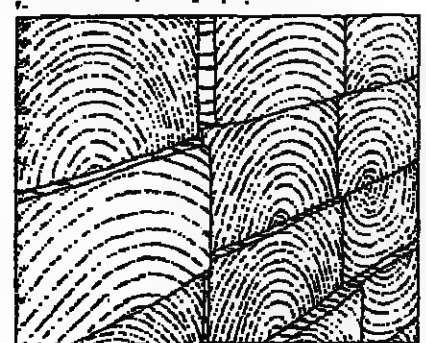
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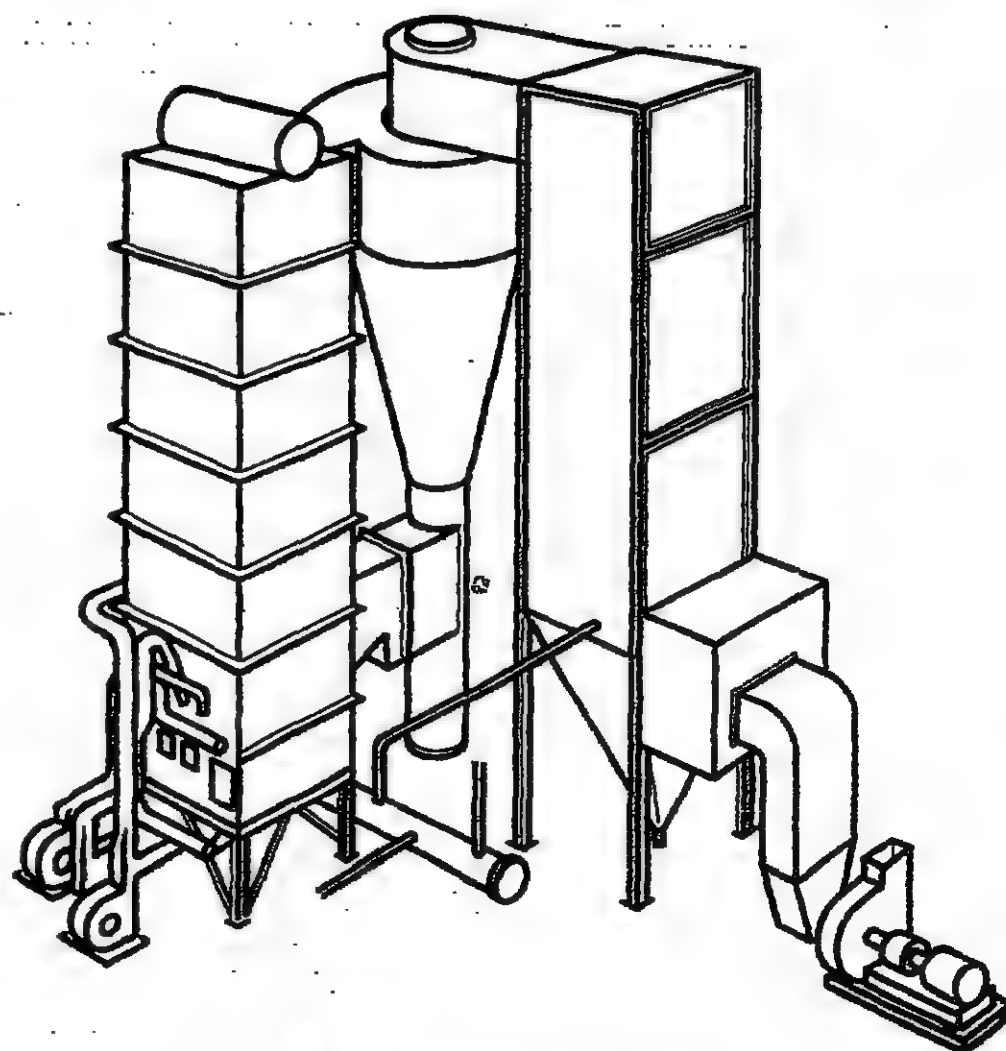


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Geoffrey Smith interviews President Mauno Koivisto of Finland

A long tradition of friendly relations



Dr Mauno Koivisto succeeded the legendary Urho Kekkonen as President of Finland in January 1982. A Social Democrat, who had previously served as Prime Minister, Finance Minister and Governor of the Bank of Finland, he has for some years been the most popular figure in Finnish public life. As a young man he worked in the docks to finance his university studies, and during the Continuation War with Russia he was a private soldier in a commando unit behind Soviet lines. Geoffrey Smith interviewed him in Helsinki before he left on his official visit to Britain.

Q: Mr President, this will be the first time you have been in Britain since you became President. Do you have a particular purpose in view? Are there any particular problems in bilateral relations between Britain and Finland that need to be resolved?

A: There are no big unsolved problems in our relations, they are traditionally good. Of course, there are always open questions of trade, about how to increase it, and there are many other areas of cooperation where something has to be done. But I suppose that the most important part of my visit will be the discussion of political questions and the exchange of views especially in the East-West context.

Over the years I know you in Helsinki have watched the development of East-West relations with particular care. How do you see the prospects?

They are not so promising as many in the West would be very happy to believe. In the West any sign is interpreted as a sign that now we are going to have new discussions of crucial importance, about armament reduction and things like that. A recent *Pravda* or *Izvestia* said that they have not given up the demand that the Euromissiles must be withdrawn before any talks can be held. There are two different things: one whether the discussions will be opened, and another whether they will lead to some results.

Evidently there is more optimism that the discussions might be opened soon but much less as to whether they will lead to some results and agreements. And as the Russians are less optimistic about the results, they are evidently very re-

luctant to come to the negotiating table if it just means endless discussions.

Am I interpreting you correctly that the prospects are quite good for opening discussions again on armaments between East and West but not for having an effective agreement?

Well, they are two different things. But I am not especially optimistic about a resumption of discussions.

Do you think there is any move that Finland can make to encourage a better atmosphere between East and West? You took the initiative over the Helsinki Security Conference in order to try to improve relations. Do you see any further steps that Finland can take to improve East-West relations?

Before I was elected President I was Prime Minister. I served in four different governments and that might be one explanation why I have wanted to see our system in the first place as a parliamentary system. Before the elections I said in all my speeches that I was going to develop those traits in our constitution that have something to do with the parliamentary system, towards a more consequent parliamentary system. I have been able to live with that pledge without any difficulties.

Well, I must be modest and say that we have had no such problems that have required an intervention by the President. It has not been too difficult to form a majority government. There have been no special

Finland's relationship with the Soviet Union. How do you see that relationship today?

We have no difficult open questions in our relations. We were able to celebrate the 40 years of peace between our two countries in a relaxed atmosphere. Both sides were pointing out that our relations have become better and better and that our mutual trust is on a high level. It has been a difficult process to reach the prevailing situation. But at the present time our relations are unchanged or, one could say, very much relaxed.

The impression that exists in Britain is that Finland has had over the years to pay particular attention to the wishes of the Soviet Union in international

group of reference. We have regular consultations and it is a group where we belong very naturally.

If again it is a case where the big powers are involved, that is where we usually are fairly careful. There was a lot of discussion during last year when in the United Nations we deplored the United States' invasion of Grenada. There were people saying that we were not following a steady line as quite soon thereafter there was, once again, a decision taken on Afghanistan. We say that the two cases are not identical but we are very reluctant to go more in detail because that would mean getting involved unnecessarily in a Big Power conflict.

Yes, but many people would be a little surprised that you criticised the United States over Grenada but not equally the Soviet Union over Afghanistan. We say that they were not identical cases.

Mr Romanov criticized the divisions within the Communist Party in Finland and he has been interpreted by a number of people here as linking that criticism to relations between the Soviet Union and Finland. Do you feel that it is consistent with the relationship that you have been describing between the Soviet Union and Finland, for a leading Soviet figure to come to Helsinki and make that kind of criticism about one of Finland's political parties?

The relations between two communist parties, that is a special case. The discussion between the Finnish Communist Party and the Soviet Communist Party has been very frank, even in newspapers and in published texts. And it is quite evident that the Soviet Communist Party has shown much more sympathy for the minority than for the majority. But they are always very careful to say that they are not interfering, they just say what they think.

Looking at Finland from Britain, one of the most remarkable features today is that you have managed to combine low inflation with relatively low unemployment. How did you do this?

I am as surprised as you are. This is really a very rare occasion. Usually we, as other governments, have to choose between inflation or stagnation. Now, our economic activity has been on a high level with decreasing inflation. It is really something very unusual that is happening.



Dr Koivisto, seen here with the Soviet Prime Minister, Mr Nikolai Tikhonov (left), believes that the Russians are reluctant to come to the table "if it just means endless discussions"

Next year we are going to celebrate the tenth anniversary. We didn't take the initiative but in a situation that seemed not very promising arose the idea of doing something, and the idea was adopted in Madrid. We have had a positive reaction from all sides to celebrate the event in a proper manner.

And there is evidently political interest beyond just celebrating. Evidently, it will take place on a political level.

Mr President, you have been in office now for more than two years. You succeeded a man who held the office for more than quarter of a century. How do you see your role as President?

problems facing the government from abroad, and no special domestic problems.

President Kekkonen was a very dominant President. Does this mean that you have not intervened in policy at all, you have simply appointed the government which would determine the policy?

He was a different kind of person and the time was different. I have not had to face such crises as he had to face.

The crises that Finland has faced in the course of the post-war years that have attracted most attention outside Finland have been in connection with

affairs in general. Now is that interpretation correct? And how may Finland's interpretation of this role have changed over the years?

Of course it is very important to us to be aware what the Soviet Union is thinking about our policies. But then it is up to us to take into consideration what kind of situation it is and to what extent it is our business. And in many cases, of course, we listen very carefully to what is said. But let's take the United Nations. If the matter has nothing to do with East-West tension, then in most cases I suppose we are voting with the Nordic countries. That is our



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ECONOMIC MIRACLE

Growth rate: even faster than Japan



Finnish optimism about the economy has been strengthened this autumn by the news that the country is showing the fastest growth rate among members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), even surpassing that of Japan.

Projections show that Finland's real gnp growth is very close to 5 per cent this year. Most industries are running to capacity, exports to market economy countries have risen 15 per cent and unemployment is 4.8 per cent.

Even inflation, which has persistently remained well above the OECD average, has eased somewhat. The government bases next year's budget on six per cent inflation, and latest monthly figures show that inflation has fallen during the last 12 months to under seven per cent. It is now generally agreed that the present favourable upward cycle will continue next year more strongly than originally projected. This means another year of very high growth for Finland.

The country has also enjoyed an unusually calm period in industrial relations. The national consensus, which has this far applied to foreign policy, has spread to other areas as well. This helped considerably when this year's collective wages and prices agreement was signed in the spring.

The main trade unions joined the government and the employers in a two-year centralized agreement, which was very moderate, with wage increases of under four per cent.

The latest full-scale OECD report on Finland, published in January, pointed out that the country had experienced a marked deceleration in growth following two years (1979 and 1980) during which output rose faster than in any other OECD country. Developments have on balance remained favourable in relative terms, particularly in terms of other European countries, the report said.

The year 1982 was more buoyant than expected, and real gnp growth amounted to 2.5 per cent, but inflation remained higher than the OECD average and especially than that of Finland's major competitors.

Three per cent growth last year, and even more this year, is clearly higher than that in most other European countries. This led even the usually reticent Mr



Fish fingers: one woman's contribution to Finland's burgeoning economy.

Rolf Kullberg, Governor of the Bank of Finland, to begin his annual statement by stating that "economic developments in Finland in 1983 remained favourable by international standards, with total output again growing more rapidly than in the OECD countries on average".

This was mainly attributable to economic policies bolstering domestic demand, which, among other things, resulted in a modest but steady increase throughout the recession.

The country has taken recession seriously and trimmed its industries to a highly competitive shape. This first enabled it to avoid the worst effects of the last recession, and

meeting the government's budget target, which is six per cent annual inflation. Last year it was 8.5 per cent, which is well above the OECD average of 5 per cent.

Prospects for Finnish exports are reasonable as far as the West is concerned. However, the barrier trade with the Soviet Union, which accounts for roughly one quarter of Finland's foreign trade, has stagnated because Finland has developed a huge surplus, which is difficult to balance because Finns do not find enough to buy from the Soviet Union.

Of individual industries, chemicals did well last year with an increase of 20 per cent in export volume. Timber was up

It is generally agreed that the upward cycle will continue next year

now puts it in a good advantage of the present revival.

The leading private commercial bank, Kansallis-Osake-Pankki (Kop), was also unusually positive towards the four party centre-left coalition led by Mr Kalevi Sorsa of the Social Democrats. It went as far as to say that the growth in investments "was partly the result of a successful economic policy".

Kop pointed out, however, that industry's competitiveness has been constantly plagued by cost rises, which are higher than in Finland's main competitors. Now, however, inflation has slowed.

The centralised wages and prices agreement was signed after the Kop report was written, but experts agree that Finland has a good chance of

7 per cent, paper 8 per cent and metal 2 per cent.

It is estimated that this year the wood-based industries will increase exports by 10 per cent and the metal industry by 5 per cent. All of this rise goes to the market economy countries; exports to the Soviet Union are decreasing slightly.

Future prospects are thus brighter than for a long time. Finland has been able to achieve a stability which was unheard of only a decade ago. Forty years ago, when Finland started the long uphill climb after two wars, the country relied on agriculture. The ensuing years of industrialization were marked by bitter fighting between the Social Democrats and the Communists. This gave rise to much

political instability. Coalition governments came and went, on average one a year.

Now the Communists have lost much of their influence, their share of the vote is down to under 14 per cent, while the Social Democrats are the biggest party, with some 27 per cent. Thus they do not have to show their radicalism and have been the driving force behind the centralized collective agreements, which are the backbone of the stability and steady growth. Ironically, this has made the country less socialist, and the socialist parties, which once had a majority in the parliament, are now down to just over 40 per cent of the seats.

According to a combined projection done by the leading economic research institutes of the five Nordic countries, Finland's growth rate will remain faster than that of the other four.

According to the institutes, Finland's average growth rate will be 3 per cent during the years 1983-87. The figure for Sweden and Denmark is 2 per cent and for Norway 1.5 per cent.

Industrial production will increase by 3.5 per cent in Finland, 2.7 in Denmark, 2.5 in Sweden and not at all in Norway. Inflation will be 7.5 in Finland and Norway, 8.2 in Sweden and 5.7 in Denmark. Unemployment per thousand persons will be 134 in Finland, 220 in Sweden, 85 in Norway and 379 in Denmark, the report predicts.

The report also shows that Finland will achieve this with far less public aid to industries than the others.

This expression of confidence in the Finnish economy has already had clearly visible results. In the short term, the Finmark was revalued by roughly one per cent after the signing of moderate wages and prices agreement.

In the longer term, Finnish firms have started a strong internationalization drive. Overseas direct investment in terms of equity capital rose almost fourfold from 1979 to 1983, from Finmark 440 million to Finmark 1,469 million in 1983. This increase has been especially apparent in Sweden, where Finnish companies have bought dozens of local factories.

Olli Kivinen

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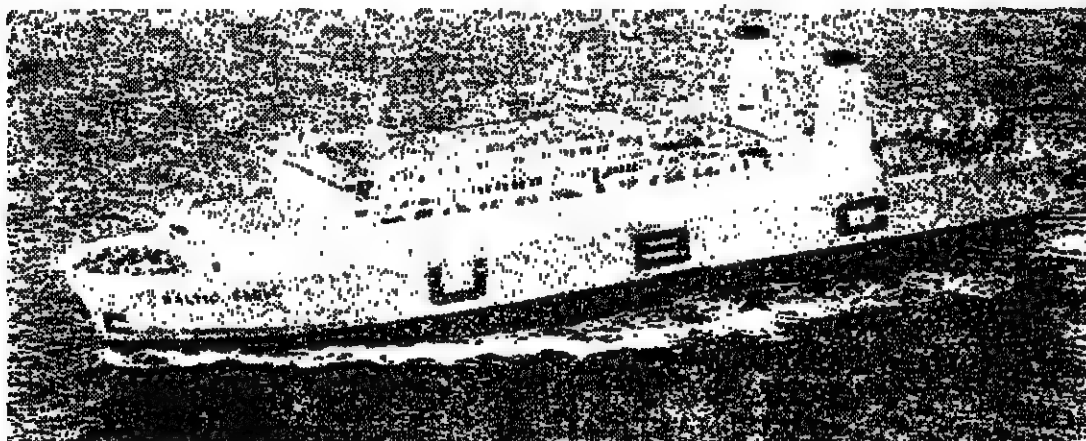
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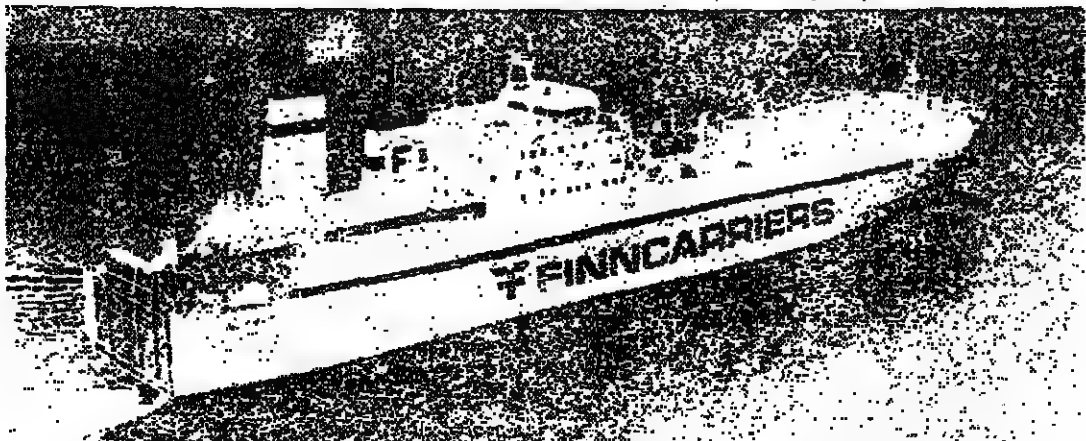
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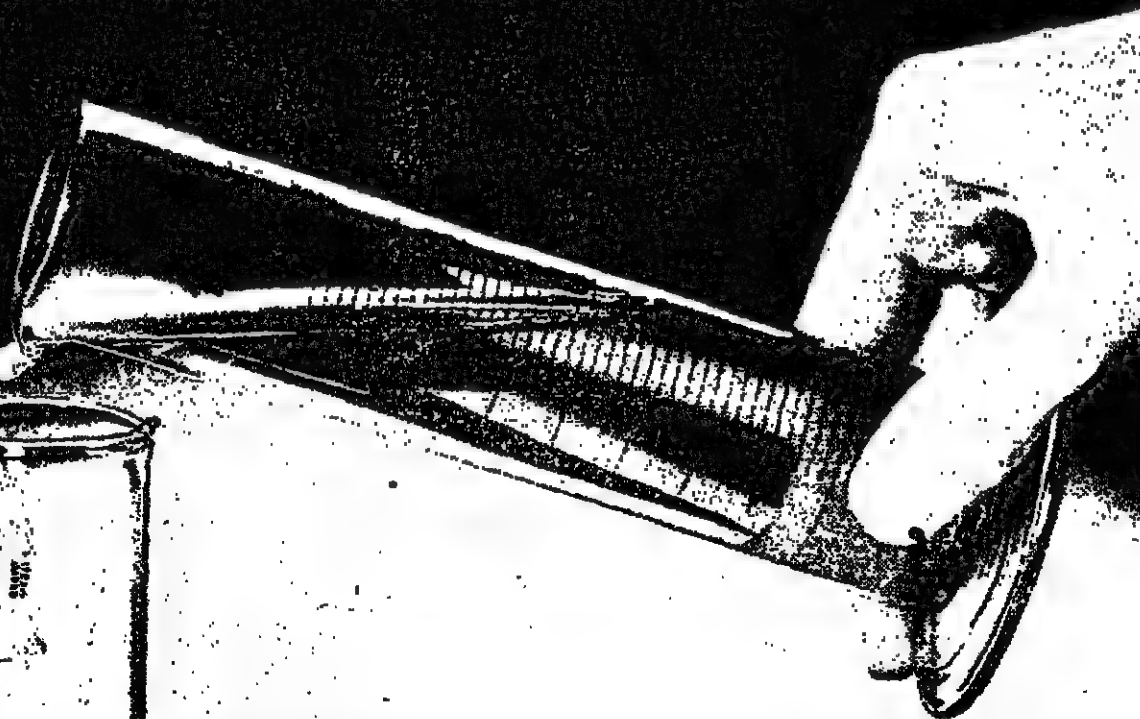
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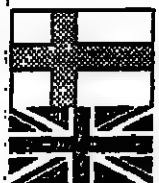
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THE WEALTH OF THE FORESTS... AND THE SEA

Getting paper to The Times



The tree remains and will continue to be the mainstay of the Finnish economy. The country's rapidly growing expertise in electronics and its older but highly regarded ability to make things like ships seems certain not to overtake in importance the Finns' traditional occupation of converting their vast forests into valuable exports.

Nearly 36 per cent of Finland's exports is made up of forest products, ranging from basic sawn timber to high quality, wood-free coated papers. More than 80 per cent of total forest output - and 90 per cent of paper - is sold abroad.

Many British newspapers, including *The Times*, are printed on Finnish newsprint. By comparison, most other industries' exports are small. Finland's chemical industry exported 10.5 per cent of its output last year, and the textile and clothing industry 7.7 per cent. Only the metal industries, when considered together, just beat the forest sector.

Other statistics about the forest industry are also impressive. Finland last year sold prefabricated wooden houses worth \$120m to foreign customers, pulp worth \$636m and paper and board worth \$2,891m. The industry's total exports were valued at \$4,679m.

Paper and board consumption in particular can be directly related to a country's gross national product. When gnp goes up, so does the demand for packaging boards, newsprint, magazine paper, computer papers and so on.

The recession of recent years has, therefore, struck at the very heart of Finland's economy and dealt serious blows to the forest industry. In 1983, after two

years of retrenchment, there emerged signs of a return to more healthy trading conditions, although nobody in Finland is euphoric about immediate prospects.

Better times started in the second half of last year; consequently the annual export volume rose by 6.2 per cent and 11.3 per cent by value, although capacity use remained on average below a satisfactory level. This year, the export "mini boom" is expected to continue at the same pace but

such activity would only bring the industry's volume sales back to 1980 levels.

According to the Central Association of Finnish Forest Industries, growth in the mechanical sector of the forest industry was hampered by insufficient supplies of pine and birch logwood (more of the available supply being diverted

to the pulp and paper mills) and while production of sawn goods rose by 6.5 per cent, the operating rate of the sawmills was under 70 per cent.

In the chemical pulp sector, companies in Finncell, the centralised selling operation, exported 1.57 tonnes, an increase of 9 per cent on the previous year. Capacity utilisation was up from the 1982 level of 72 per cent to 81 per cent and the producers are taking heart from the predicted 5 per cent increase in world pulp demand this year.

The Finns have been particularly disturbed by the impact of the successive currency devaluations by the Swedes - their main European competitors -

and while Finland has been forced to follow its neighbour's example, the extent of the Finnmark devaluation may prove to be inadequate.

In the paper markets, Finland's exports began expanding slowly last autumn and there is hope that things will continue to improve this year.

The 1983 total of more than 4m tons of paper products delivered by Finnish mills was 8 per cent higher than in 1982, but the price levels did little to provoke excitement.

Paper sales earned Finnish companies Fmk 10,500m, a rise over the previous year of 9 per cent. This, says the industry, is "a result that cannot be considered altogether satisfactory, viewed against the rise in tonnage. It did not even approximately match the rate of inflation."

Newsprint, one of the most sensitive paper grades, is providing most producers with their lowest margins. While the voracious appetite for newspapers continues in Europe - and proprietors are paying what they consider to be very high prices - the main suppliers like the Finns complain that excessive capacity has held down prices and weakened the market.

Finland, like Sweden (the two countries sell almost all of their newsprint in Europe) has been pulling out all the stops in a bid to increase the value of newsprint at a time of only slowly rising prices.

High technology (and highly expensive) developments like thermo-mechanical pulp and the arrival of much lighter grades of newsprint have both helped to cut the supplies of the precious and costly fibre supply.

The Finns have also moved away from home in the hope of making more money from foreign-based operations. The most notable venture so far is in the UK, Finland's best market in Europe, where United Paper Mills is investing £135m on a newsprint plant in North Wales.

This, and a £40m newsprint investment at Ellesmere Port on Merseyside by Consolidated Bathurst of Canada, will increase total UK newsprint capacity to about 300,000 tonnes, about a third of current domestic demand.

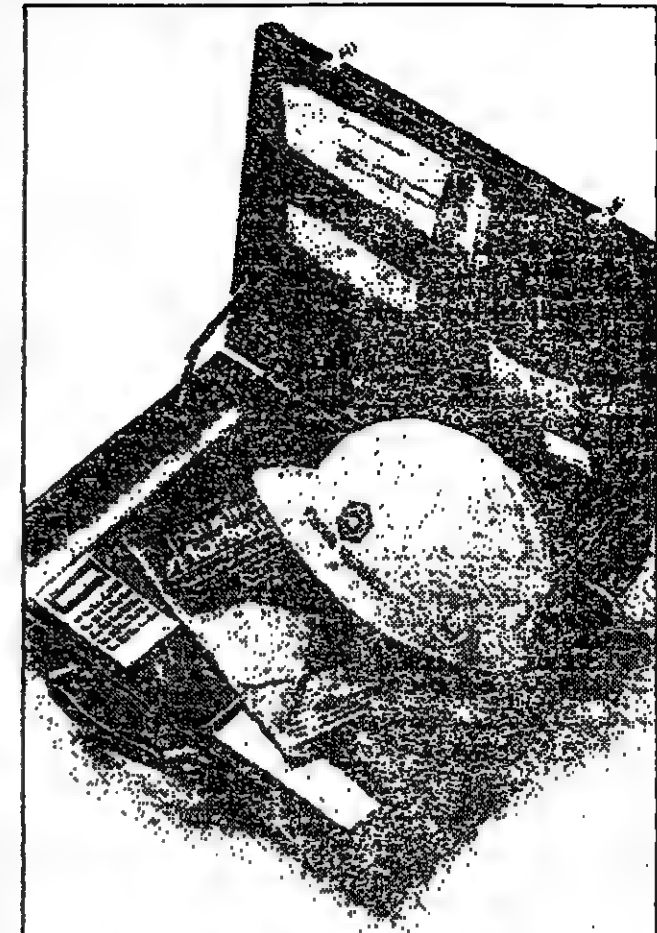
On the broader paper front, the major consolation for the Finnish producers has been the growing strength of the United States market, where increases in demand help to mop up huge amounts of paper that would otherwise find their way to European consumers.

As a result, deliveries by Finnapp (the paper equivalent of Finncell) doubled compared with 1982 and the US became the fourth largest export market for Finland.

Edward Townsend



Free passage. Logs on their long journey down one of Finland's great rivers en route for pulp or saw mill. Forest products form 36 per cent of Finland's exports



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Shipbuilding: a steady flow of Soviet orders

Specialization has been the magic formula which has enabled Finland's shipbuilding industry to keep its head above water when most European yards have sunk into ever growing difficulties.

The industry is now doing well, but warning signs are there, because many specialists claim that the industry has too much capacity and that it cannot expect to keep the 18,000 workforce without new orders.

The industry's order book in June was for 60 ships, totalling 600,000 grt. This was down from last year's record of 86 ships (670,000 grt), but the picture has improved somewhat during the autumn with fresh orders from the Soviet Union.

Shipbuilding is the clearest example of the important role played by Soviet trade. During periods of international tension in particular, Finland's close and carefully guarded trade relations with the Soviet Union raise many eyebrows in the West, but Finns have come to regard the 25 per cent portion of their trade done with the Soviet Union as a clear benefit.

Soviet trade is conducted on barter and long-term basis. Framework trade agreements are negotiated for five years at a time, which means, for example, that the Finnish shipbuilding industry can plan ahead in a way that is impossible in normal markets. Even longer term plans are discussed - and this enables Finns to see in advance what the Soviet Union is aiming at in, say, a decade from now. Finnish yards can therefore design products before others even know that the Russians contemplate ordering them.

This steady flow of Soviet orders plays an important role in keeping the yards competitive in Western markets, because new investments can be decided upon knowing that part of the capacity is already all but sold to the Soviet Union. A third important element contributing to today's relatively favourable situation is research. Finnish yards employ hundreds of graduate engineers to produce a steady flow of new designs. Wärtsilä, the biggest shipbuilding enterprise, has



The most luxurious cruise ship ever built. The Royal Princess in Helsinki last month when it was handed over to its owners, P&O. It will be named by the Princess of Wales tomorrow.

delivered 51 different types of ship during the last ten years. Today's catchword is total design concept, which means that a company like Wärtsilä can take care of everything involved in designing and

building a modern ship. Wärtsilä has captured a 30 per cent of the world's cruise ship market, and has built 60 per cent of all ice-breakers since the Second World War.

It also leads in Arctic offshore technology, which Finnish shipbuilders see as their long term saviour. Roughly half of its current order book is for special vessels for Arctic conditions.

In the beginning of 1983 the company inaugurated a new Arctic research centre for the study of the way in which vessels and offshore constructions behave in icy conditions. The centre's equipment includes the world's largest model test basin, and it carries out work for state research institutes as well as for other Finnish shipyards and organizations.

Wärtsilä's former ice-breaking laboratory, built in 1969, was the first of its kind in the Western world.

In January this year Wärtsilä established an Arctic technology company in North America. Wärtsilä Arctic Inc. (WAI) will spearhead a new attempt to penetrate the North American markets. So far Finland has been unable to sell ice-breakers to the U.S. because of congressional pressure for local orders and because ice-breakers are run by the coast guard.

In inaugurating WAI, Mr. Tor Stole, president of Wärtsilä, pointed out that the exploitation of energy resources in both the Canadian and U.S. Arctic is under way even though the timing of operations is still in doubt. Wärtsilä is taking a

long-term view of this development. Other companies, such as the state-owned Valmet and Rauma-Repola, a private concern which used to be a main supplier of oil rigs but has lately encountered difficulties, have set their sights on off-shore arctic vessels.

Specialization has meant that Finnish yards have completely abandoned the idea of building ordinary ships in competition with the Japanese and South Koreans. All leading managers say flatly that there is no future for European companies in this field. One important aspect in the survival and profitability of leading yards is the fact that they have had to get along without state subsidies. This meant that the yards were compelled to modernize and trim their operations at a time when most of their European rivals were featherbedded by the state. Almost all West European countries have since decided that subsidies are in the long run a bad thing.

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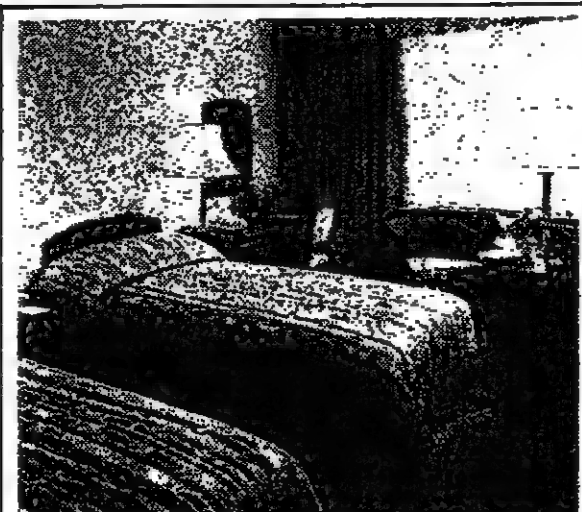
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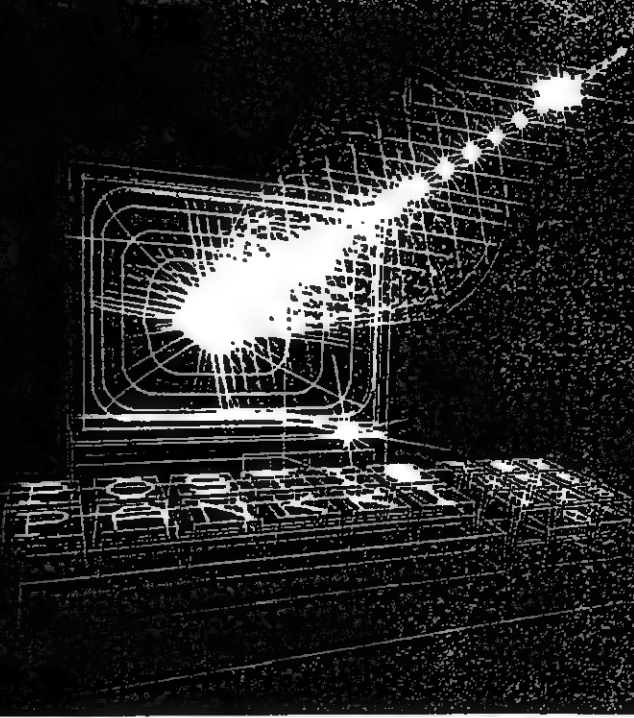
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The bishop who lost his head



Bishop Henry, now martyred, became Finland's patron saint. His remains were buried in 1300 in the cathedral church at Turku, which was dedicated to him.

He stationed watchmen on the islands to look out for casualties. On one of the islands, Korpo, half way between Turku and the open sea was a store of wrecking equipment including "tongs with three to eight claws, canons-tongs, derricks, saws, breaking hammers, salt and ballast scoops." Fitbje, and his son, were not too particular about the ships they "salvaged." Perhaps in penance for his riches, he built one of the first Finnish lighthouses on the island Utö among the dangerous skerries in 1753. (Utö

Cowie was joined by fellow Scotsman William Crichton and a number of other Scots in the Russian Navy's works in St. Petersburg, who later bought Cowie out and established William Crichton and Co., shipbuilders and engineers. Crichton collaborated with a number of other Scots in the Scottish Salvager Fithie.

Another Briton, John Edward Eager, who had been working for the Russian Navy, took over the expanded group in 1889. With their inside knowledge of the Russian Navy, the Crichtons were able to establish a strong export trade for various kinds of vessels. In due course this company became Wärtsilä, now Finland's leading shipbuilder.

Michael Frenchman

Watch out for the reindeer

Many of the latter, usually known as

The markets in Finland are a national attraction in themselves, with every carrot or onion seemingly

To the south-east of Savonlinna, the main terminus for much of the lake

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Protecting the big bad wolf

Professor Pulliainen, who has, among other things, lived in a wolf's lair, is adamant that wolves are harmless to people. He also estimates that Finland's wolves eat about 1,000 elk a year, which represents only one-fiftieth of the annual elk killing permits granted to hunters.

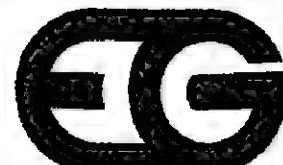
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SHE HAS SOMETHING IN COMMON WITH HIM
EVEN THOUGH SHE DOESN'T KNOW IT.



A hurried housewife arriving home from the market with her children is completely unaware that thousands of miles away a scientist in his laboratory is constantly thinking of her. Nor does she have any idea that they have something very much in common. There is a link between her and this man.



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